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HC refuses to stay puja inside mosque

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MEMORABLE DAY

Jaiswal sizzles with unbeaten century

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'Cong. should apologise for D.K. Suresh's remark'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Ministers in both Houses of Parliament on Friday demanded an apology from the Congress after one of its Lok Sabha members, D.K. Suresh, allegedly said that south Indian States may have to seek a separate country if they don't get their fair share of funds in the Union Budget.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to refer the matter to the Ethics Committee, and sought an apology from Sonia Gandhi, who heads the Congress Parliamentary Party.

Response to Budget

On Thursday, offering his Mr. Suresh offered his response to the Union Budget to Kannada channels. Mr. Suresh said: "Our tax money is being distributed to north India, if we don't condemn it there might arise a situation where we will have to demand a separate country." Mr. Suresh, the lone MP from Congress from Karnataka, is brother of KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Joshi termed Mr. Suresh's remarks an "insult to the architect of the Constitution, Babasaheb Ambedkar".

"I condemn the statement of the Congress member and demand that the matter be referred to the Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha," Mr. Joshi said. "The Congress traditions on dividing the country still persists. I demand that Sonia Gandhi take action against the member and also clarify whether the party supports the views," he said.

Members of the Opposition INDIA bloc, including the Congress and the DMK, were on their feet.

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 7

Champai Soren sworn in as 12th CM of Jharkhand

Satyanand Bhokta of RJD and Alamgir Alam of Cong. take oath as Cabinet Ministers; 39 MLAs of ruling coalition shifted to Hyderabad ahead of floor test; Hemant Soren sent to 5-day ED custody

Amit Bhelari
RANCHI

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Champai Soren took oath as the twelfth Chief Minister of Jharkhand on Friday, even as his predecessor Hemant Soren was remanded to five days in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MLA Satyanand Bhokta and Congress MLA Alamgir Alam also took oath as Cabinet Ministers in a swearing-in ceremony that came two days after Mr. Hemant Soren's resignation and arrest in an alleged land scam case.

Soon after the ceremony, 39 MLAs of the ruling coalition, who have been staying in the Ranchi Circuit House, were rushed straight to the airport and flown to Hyderabad by chartered plane in a bid to prevent them from being poached by the Opposition before the new government seeks a vote of confidence on February 5. The JMM-led alliance has submitted letters of support from 47 MLAs to the Raj Bhavan.

Before boarding the chartered flight, several MLAs said that they were going to Hyderabad due to fear of harassment by the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation. The MLAs were met in Hyderabad by Telangana Congress leaders Deepadas Munshi and Ponnam Prabhakar and taken straight from the airport to the Leonia Resort in Shamirpet on the outskirts of the city.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

At the helm: Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren during the swearing-in at the Raj Bhavan in Ranchi on Friday. PTI

SC refuses to intervene in plea against arrest

NEW DELHI
A Special Bench of the Supreme Court on Friday refused to intervene in a plea by former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren challenging his arrest on money laundering charges in a land scam case, asking him to approach the Jharkhand High Court. » PAGE 15

Vijay floats party, to fight 2026 polls

Udhav Naig
CHENNAI

Tamil cinema's leading hero Vijay on Friday took the political plunge and announced the formation of his political party 'Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam'.

Positioning himself against the politics of "corruption" and "divisiveness", Mr. Vijay said his party would enter the electoral fray in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly election. It will stay away from the upcoming Lok Sabha election and not extend support to anyone.

Arguably the biggest and highest paid star in Tamil Nadu at the moment, Mr. Vijay, the founder-president of the party, said in a statement that the State has suffered due to maladministration and corruption and has been plagued by the politics of hate and divisiveness. "It is a fact that everyone is yearning for governance that is selfless, transparent, corruption-free, and without caste or religious bias. What is important is that such politics is in tune with the Tamil culture of equality and political traditions of the State," he said. The actor had years ago converted his fans association into Vijay Makkal Iyakkam (VMI), a larger social platform that has now been converted into a political party.

Bussy Anand, general secretary, VMI, was in New Delhi to initiate the process of registering the political party with Election Commission of India.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Vijay. @ACTORVIJAY/INSTAGRAM

Shamar Joseph rekindles the embers of an old sporting dynasty

The 24-year-old fast bowler is a modern version of the legendary quicks who powered the West Indies to the top of world cricket. His heroic performance in the famous win at the Gabba and his passionate support for the Test format have allowed fans of Caribbean cricket to dream again

GETTY IMAGES

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

Men have a strange equation with their lacrimal glands. They would rather blink hard than cry. It could be social conditioning ever since those hunting days of yore when dark caves and a warm fire were the only luxuries that mankind knew. The tear ducts are often wrongly deemed a vestigial remnant by the male half of the species and then you have those wretched tropes like men don't cry.

Yet last Sunday, many men across the cricketing globe, despite being in denial, found some moisture seeping into their eyes. For those under the camera's relentless gaze, especially cricketing stars like Brian Lara and Carl Hooper now doubling up as commentators, there was no place to hide. Lara's eyes brimmed while Aussie great Adam Gilchrist held him tight and Hooper strode towards a wall, trying to conceal his fragile but happy state.

The bridge of nostalgia

Equally for men of a certain vintage, and women too, belonging to an era that worshipped Vivian Richards and Malcolm Marshall, the eyes turned damp. Old friends were texted, this was the bridge of nostalgia, and a shared pride rippled along with the triumphant West Indians at Brisbane's Gabba. The men from the Caribbean had finally defeated Australia in a Test Down Under after 27 years. A two-Test series was drawn level at 1-1. Even the vanquished skipper Pat Cummins seemed happy!

> I'm not afraid to say this. I will always be available to play for the West Indies, no matter how much money comes towards me. I will always be here to play Test cricket
>
> **SHAMAR JOSEPH**

This was joy unbridled. Current fans of the willow game may have New Zealand as their second favourite side after their respective national squads but for many, hiding their age with hair-colour but forever believing that their hearts are young, the West Indies is an eternal favourite.

And who best to rekindle the torrid embers of an old sporting love affair but a young fast bowler? Shamar Joseph is a modern version of those dispensers of fire when some like Michael Holding were referred to as 'Whispering Death'. There is an element of the late Marshall too in him, be it in his height or the way he steams in to land his thunderbolts while his back arches for a millisecond and the arms blur.

The 24-year-old is from Guyana, a tiny nation resting upon the top fringes of South America, and yet considered as part of the West Indian archipelago, specifically when it comes to cricket. Hailing from Baracara, a tropical village where timber logging was his primary vocation, Joseph played tape-ball cricket and eventually moved to a town called New Amsterdam. In a rapid ascent to top-flight cricket, he caught the selectors' eye and soon played for Guyana. He finally learnt the game's finer points and technique. The rough-cut granite now seemed set to evolve into a polished diamond.

Still, pathos was the overwhelming theme that shadowed the West Indians. These men even failed to qualify for last year's ICC World Cup in India. The dirge was being played and be it sunshine, a silver lining or even that elusive rainbow, all seemed impossible. But Joseph, like Moses parting the seas, lent hope. He snapped up a five-for on debut in the first Test at Adelaide, and scalped the likes of Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne. He also scored some handy runs even if the host prevailed with a 10-wicket victory.

When Kraigg Brathwaite's men moved to Brisbane, it seemed as if another defeat was just around the corner. Fans wavered between dreams about West Indian miracles and presumptions about inevitable Australian wins. The first innings joust mildly tilted towards the visitors thanks to a 22-run lead but this was against Australia in its backyard. Not much could be read into such a wafer-thin advantage.

Overcoming adversity

The West Indians ended up setting a target of 216 but a massive worry was centred around Joseph, who found a Mitchell Starc yorker thud into his boot. The batter retired hurt and questions remained about whether the bowler within him had turned comatose. Rationality can hold an unforgiving mirror but sport can crack that glass into smithereens. It did through Joseph.

He bowled through pain, running in hard even if he gingerly walked towards the top of his run-up. This was a man willing himself to fight and his yield of seven for 68 is one of the greatest spells of fast bowling. It helped the West Indies win by eight runs. Stumps were rattled, edges were taken and often Joseph ran with exuberance while his teammates converged on him.

> It's unbelievable. Twenty-seven years to beat Australia in Australia. Young, inexperienced, written off... this West Indies team and West Indies cricket can stand tall today
>
> **BRIAN LARA**

Battle-hardened men like Lara, Hooper and Ian Bishop struggled with misty eyes. The trio knew what it was to win in their playing days but as commentators they have been the harbingers of bad news pertaining to the West Indies. These were men, who in their prime had relished the services of fast merchants like Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh. Bishop himself was a mean speedster before injuries forced him to step aside.

This was a moment that many awaited with bated breath, even if ICC trophies were won in the past, be it the Champions Trophy (2004) or the World T20 (2012 and 2016). To win a Test against a strong rival was deemed impossible even if in limited overs' contests, the West Indies could often sting.

But finally a Test was won and again it was Australia that sparked the turnaround. It was losses incurred primarily due to Australian spearheads like Dennis Lillee that forced Clive Lloyd to jettison spin and opt for his fiery quartet of Andy Roberts, Joel Garner, Holding and Marshall. That mid-1970s move toppled cricket's hierarchy and with Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes, Richards and Lloyd lending batting might, the West Indies became an indomitable force.

Gentler flavours

Climaxes involving the West Indies became a one-way street while the rivals quivered. And then gradually the losses started, talent migrated towards basketball and the fancy shores of the United States. There were fast bowlers but not many lasted and a new template was found. Dwayne Bravo, Kieron Pollard and Darren Sammy, with their big hits, agile fielding and medium pace of the lower notch, became the gentle flavours of Caribbean cricket.

Besides propping up their national unit in coloured clothing, they found a heaven in the Indian Premier League. The fear of lining up against a West Indian pacer had dwindled and the mind wistfully recalled those witty placards held up in Australia during the 1980s: "Rain, rain go away, come when the West Indies come!" Back then, the Calypso men with their raw pace and muscular batting were something to sigh over and praise.

For now, Joseph and his mates hint at a revival, and his words backing Tests are obvious booster-shots. While he takes a break and tends to his battered toe, the West Indies will wait for him. We will too and maybe the box of tissues can be kept handy.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	36	9,855	19
2	Carlos Alcaraz	20	9,255	18
3	Daniil Medvedev	27	8,765	21
4	Jannik Sinner	22	8,310	22
5	Andrey Rublev	26	5,050	24
6	Alexander Zverev	26	5,030	27
7	Holger Rune	20	3,685	23
8	Hubert Hurkacz	26	3,540	24
9	Taylor Fritz	26	3,195	26
10	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	3,025	24
11	Alex de Minaur	24	2,970	25
12	Casper Ruud	25	2,965	23
13	Grigor Dimitrov	32	2,785	23
14	Frances Tiafoe	26	2,060	22
15	Tommy Paul	26	2,050	26

Top Indians ▸

Sumit Nagal
Rank 121 ▲ 16 spots

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 461 ▲ 2 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	9,770	19
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	8,905	16
3	Coco Gauff	19	7,200	19
4	Jessica Pegula	29	5,705	21
5	Elena Rybakina	24	5,688	18
6	Ons Jabeur	29	4,076	20
7	Qinwen Zheng	21	3,950	22
8	Marketa Vondrousova	24	3,846	16
9	Maria Sakkari	28	3,710	24
10	Karolina Muchova	27	3,520	14
11	Barbora Krejcikova	28	3,081	21
12	Jelena Ostapenko	26	3,028	23
13	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,950	23
14	Daria Kasatkina	26	2,838	25
15	Liudmila Samsonova	25	2,700	24

Top Indians ▸

Ankita Raina
Rank 228 ▼ 5 spots

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 335 ▲ 1 spot

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Liverpool	22	15	6	1	51	19	32	51
2	Man. City	21	14	4	3	51	24	27	46
3	Arsenal	22	14	4	4	44	21	23	46
4	Tottenham	22	13	4	5	47	33	14	43
5	Aston Villa	22	13	4	5	44	30	14	43
6	West Ham	22	10	6	6	36	33	3	36
7	Man. United	22	11	2	9	28	32	-4	35
8	Newcastle	22	10	2	10	44	33	11	32
9	Brighton	22	8	8	6	38	37	1	32
10	Chelsea	22	9	4	9	36	35	1	31
11	Wolves	22	8	5	9	33	35	-2	29
12	Bournemouth	21	7	5	9	29	40	-11	26
13	Fulham	22	7	4	11	28	36	-8	25
14	Crystal Palace	22	6	6	10	25	36	-11	24
15	Brentford	21	6	4	11	31	36	-5	22
16	N. Forest	22	5	5	12	27	40	-13	20
17	Luton Town	21	5	4	12	28	38	-10	19
18	Everton *	22	8	4	10	24	28	-4	18
19	Burnley	22	3	3	16	22	45	-23	12
20	Sheffield	22	2	4	16	19	54	-35	10

* Everton deducted 10 points following a breach of the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules. That decision is currently under appeal.

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	21	17	3	1	50	10	40	54
2	Juventus	22	16	5	1	36	13	23	53
3	AC Milan	22	14	4	4	43	25	18	46
4	Atalanta	21	11	3	7	37	21	16	36
5	Roma	22	10	5	7	36	26	10	35
6	Fiorentina	21	10	4	7	29	22	7	34
7	Lazio	21	10	4	7	24	20	4	34
8	Bologna	21	8	9	4	25	20	5	33
9	Napoli	21	9	5	7	30	25	5	32
10	Torino	21	8	7	6	20	19	1	31
11	Genoa	22	7	7	8	24	26	-2	28
12	Monza	22	7	7	8	21	28	-7	28
13	Frosinone	22	6	5	11	29	41	-12	23
14	Lecce	22	4	9	9	21	31	-10	21
15	Sassuolo	21	5	4	12	26	37	-11	19
16	Verona	22	4	6	12	20	30	-10	18
17	Udinese	22	2	12	8	23	37	-14	18
18	Cagliari	22	4	6	12	21	38	-17	18
19	Empoli	22	4	5	13	15	36	-21	17
20	Salernitana	22	2	6	14	19	44	-25	12

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	22	18	3	1	47	14	33	57
2	Girona	22	17	4	1	52	25	27	55
3	Atletico Madrid	22	15	2	5	44	24	20	47
4	Barcelona	22	14	5	3	44	29	15	47
5	Athletic Bilbao	22	12	6	4	38	21	17	42
6	Real Sociedad	22	9	9	4	32	21	11	36
7	Real Betis	22	8	10	4	25	24	1	34
8	Valencia	22	9	5	8	27	26	1	32
9	Las Palmas	22	9	4	9	22	19	3	31
10	Getafe	22	7	8	7	28	30	-2	29
11	Alaves	22	7	5	10	22	27	-5	26
12	Osasuna	22	7	5	10	26	33	-7	26
13	Rayo Vallecano	22	5	9	8	19	28	-9	24
14	Villarreal	22	6	5	11	33	45	-12	23
15	Real Mallorca	22	3	11	8	19	26	-7	20
16	Sevilla	22	3	8	11	27	36	-9	17
17	Celta Vigo	22	3	8	11	21	32	-11	17
18	Cadiz	22	2	10	10	15	31	-16	16
19	Granada	22	2	5	15	22	44	-22	11
20	Almeria	21	0	6	15	21	46	-25	6

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Leverkusen	19	15	4	0	50	14	36	49
2	Bayern	19	15	2	2	56	18	38	47
3	Stuttgart	19	12	1	6	43	25	18	37
4	Dortmund	19	10	6	3	40	26	14	36
5	RB Leipzig	19	10	3	6	42	26	16	33
6	Eint. Frankfurt	19	8	7	4	30	22	8	31
7	SC Freiburg	19	8	4	7	25	31	-6	28
8	Hoffenheim	19	7	4	8	35	37	-2	25
9	Werder Bremen	19	6	5	8	28	32	-4	23
10	Heidenheim	19	6	5	8	28	35	-7	23
11	Wolfsburg	19	6	4	9	23	30	-7	22
12	M'gladbach	19	5	6	8	35	38	-3	21
13	FC Augsburg	19	5	6	8	28	36	-8	21
14	Bochum	19	4	8	7	21	37	-16	20
15	Union Berlin	18	5	2	11	18	32	-14	17
16	Cologne	19	2	6	11	12	34	-22	12
17	Mainz	18	1	8	9	14	30	-16	11
18	Darmstadt	19	2	5	12	22	47	-25	11

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kane Williamson	864	919
2	Joe Root	832	923
3	Steve Smith	818	947
4	Daryl Mitchell	786	804
5	Babar Azam	768	882
6	Virat Kohli	767	937
7	Harry Brook	765	773
9	Dimuth Karunaratne	747	783
10	Marnus Labuschagne	746	937

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	853	904
2	Kagiso Rabada	851	902
3	Pat Cummins	828	914
4	Jasprit Bumrah	825	834
5	Josh Hazlewood	818	864
6	Ravindra Jadeja	754	899
7	Usman Khawaja	765	847
8	Ollie Robinson	754	820
9	Prabath Jayasuriya	751	781
10	Nathan Lyon	746	799

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	824	898
2	Shubman Gill	801	847
3	Virat Kohli	768	909
4	Rohit Sharma	746	882
5	David Warner	745	869
6	Daryl Mitchell	728	750
7	Harry Tector	723	729
8	Dawid Malan	707	730
9	Rassie van der Dussen	701	796
10	Shai Hope	699	802

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Keshav Maharaj	716	741
2	Josh Hazlewood	703	727
3	Mohammed Siraj	678	736
4	Adam Zampa	675	695
5	Rashid Khan	667	799
6	Jasprit Bumrah	665	838
7	Shaheen Afridi	650	688
8	Mohammad Nabi	648	657
8	Maheesh Theekshana	648	648
10	Kuldeep Yadav	645	760

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	861	910
2	Philip Salt	802	802
3	Mohammad Rizwan	800	875
4	Babar Azam	764	896
5	Aiden Markram	755	796
6	Yashasvi Jaiswal	714	739
7	Finn Allen	706	723
8	Rilee Rossouw	689	724
9	Jos Buttler	680	687
10	Reeza Hendricks	660	674

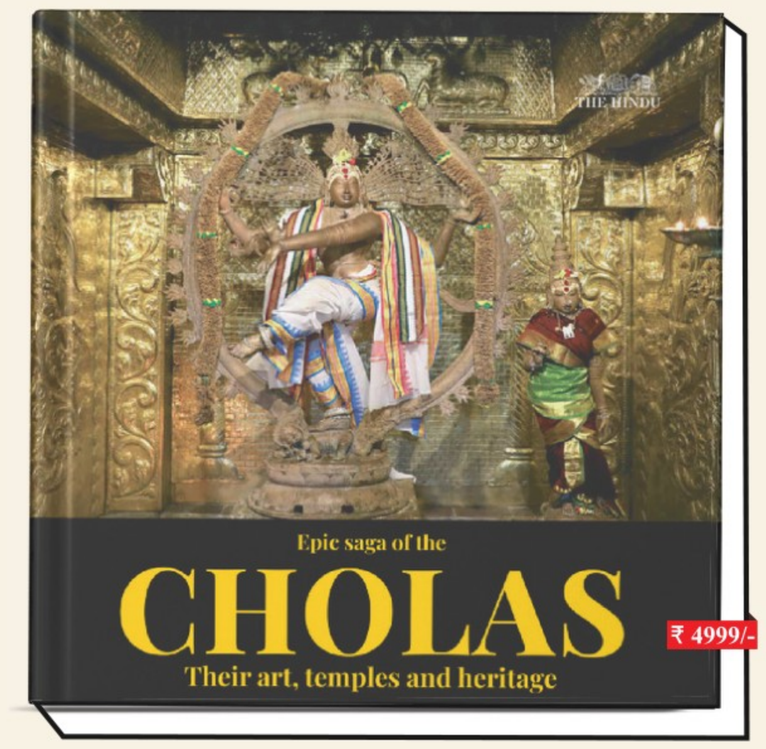
T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Adil Rashid	726	746
2	Akeal Hosein	683	683
3	Maheesh Theekshana	679	684
4	Wanindu Hasaranga	676	797
5	Axar Patel	660	667
6	Ravi Bishnoi	659	699
7	Tabraiz Shamsi	654	821
8	Rashid Khan	651	816
9	Mitchell Santner	650	724
10	Reece Topley	643	662

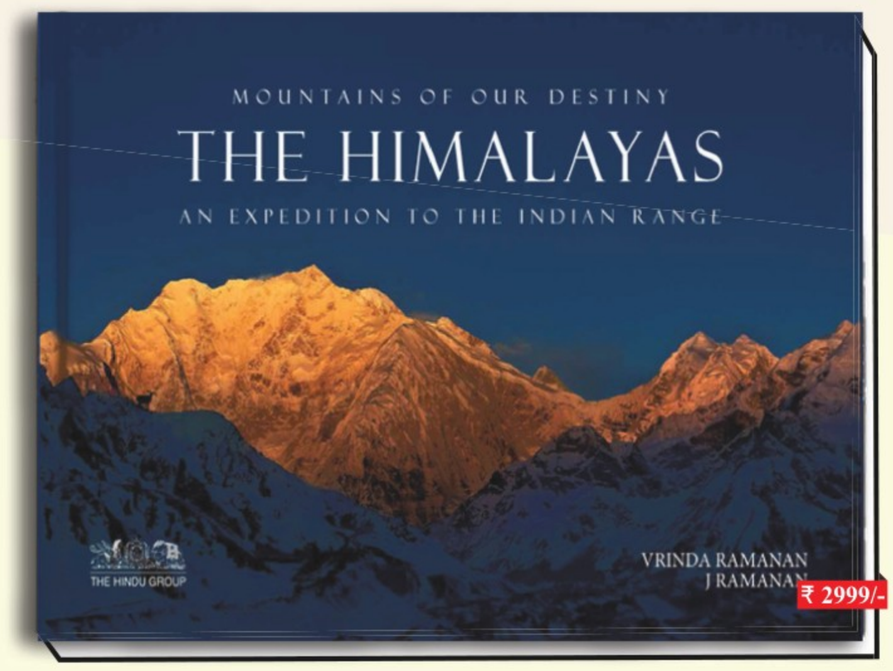
THE HINDU GROUP

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS FROM THE HINDU GROUP

Tirumala- The Seven Hills of Salvation is a coffee-table book on the holy shrine of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala. The book contains articles by well-known writers on Hindu religion and philosophy. The articles cover subjects such as Srinivasa Kalyanam, the significance of Amuktha Malyada written by Krishnadeva Raya on Lord Venkateswara, Sri Ramanuja's important role in establishing the rituals and customs in Tirumala, the story of Ananthalwan and on the importance of Vaikunta Ekadasi. This collector's edition also features rare pictures of Lord Venkateswara, Sri Padmavathi and Tirumala. Apart from the above, there will be articles on TTD and it's excellent work in running the Tirumala temple.



The Epic saga of the Cholas, Their art, temples and heritage - The grandeur and heritage of the Chola dynasty from the Tamil country, which has fascinated scholars and the layman alike, has been brought out in this coffee-table book by The Hindu when the spotlight has been turned on the Cholas.



** Re-printed edition with QR codes in each chapter for a visual delight

Mountains of our Destiny - The Himalayas - An expedition to the Indian Range With 300 scintillating photographs (J. Ramanan) and flowing text (Vrinda Ramanan), 'Mountains of Our Destiny...' is a tribute to the Great Himalayan Range from The Hindu Group of Publications. A connoisseur's delight, the contents vouch for the authors' spirit of adventure and deep reverence for the wonders that lie in the snowy lap of the mountains.

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INBRIEF

BIS holds gram panchayat sensitisation programme

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Bengaluru Branch office, recently organised a gram panchayat sensitisation programme in Devanahalli taluk in Bengaluru Rural district involving 24 gram panchayats. The programme was chaired by C.S. Srinath Gowda, Executive Officer, and Narendra Reddy, Joint Director, BIS.

The BIS in a release said the programme was aimed to enlighten participants on the Indian Standards and quality ecosystem. The key topics covered in the programme included an overview of the BIS, essential standards for gram panchayats, BIS Care App installation, website usage, and a hands-on activity exploring important standards. The initiative focused on capacity building to effectively implement various programmes and schemes at the gram panchayat level, the release stated.

Metro services to start early tomorrow

To facilitate hassle-free travel by Namma Metro for those participating in the World Cancer Day event – CANWALK and XL Runathon – scheduled for Sunday, the BMRCL will be commencing its services at 4.30 a.m. instead of 7 a.m. from all four terminal stations.

All-night music programme

Gururao Deshpande Sangeet Sabha is organising the Gururao Deshpande-Bhimsen Joshi Memorial 39th All-night Sangeet Samaroh on Saturday. The event features vocal concerts by Bharathi Pratap, Vinayak Torvi, Omkar Dadarkar, and Kaushik Aital, sitar recital by Ustad Shafique and tabla solo by Pandurang Pawar. The programme will be held at Ravindra Kalakshetra on J.C. Road, from 9 p.m.

Mandya to host Sahitya Sammelana from June 7

The 87th Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana will be held in Mandya from June 7 to 9, Minister in charge of Mandya district N. Cheluvarayaswamy announced on Friday. After a preliminary meeting in connection with the sammelana, he said the event is being in Mandya after 30 years.

Non-cooperation by banks, internet intermediaries hits cybercrime probe

Banks and internet intermediaries hold information critical to unmasking cybercriminals and recovering the swindled money, say police

CAUGHT IN A WEB

Some of the recent cybercrime cases were detected by following the trail of money laundered through several bank accounts.

A fake investment scheme cracked in October 2023, involving a network of 84 bank accounts with transactions worth over ₹850 crore, and a work-from-home scam unearthed last week, involving a network of 30 bank accounts with transactions worth over ₹150 crore, were detected by following the trail of money laundered through several bank accounts.

"Opening these bank accounts is a point where the cyber and the real worlds meet, leading us to some of the accused," a senior police official said.

But the biggest challenge to cybercrime investigations in the city has been the non-cooperation of banks and internet intermediaries, who hold information critical to unmasking cybercriminals and recovering the swindled money.

Police officials probing cyber frauds say many banks are lax in their response to queries seeking details on accounts, KYC details, and bank statements. "Delay in their response at the very least means any remote chance of recovering the swindled money is lost and at worst prevent us from cracking these rackets," said an inspector of a Cyber Crime, Economic Offences and Narcotics (CEN) police station in the city.

Monthly meeting

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayananda has now started holding a monthly review meeting with the representatives of several banks and has evolved an internal mechanism for the quick sharing of this information. "Each bank has its protocols and many times the information we seek needs to be collected from their branches, adding to the delay. But the monthly meetings are now helping and slowly we are building trust and a bridge," he said.

"Earlier, when Cybercrime Information Report (CIR), which seeks to freeze transactions within the golden hour after the cybercrime, was started two years ago, banks were lax in their response to even freezing accounts, which has improved now, but sharing of information is still a bottleneck," an official said.

Tougher nut to crack

The tougher nut to crack has been the internet intermediaries whose cooperation is key to unmasking the identities of cybercriminals. For instance, the probe into the hoax bomb threat emails sent to over 70 schools in and around Bengaluru on December 1, 2023 has hit a dead end after the virtual private network (VPN) service provider was non-cooperative.

In most cyber rackets unearthed too, the police have only been able to arrest those in the lowest rung and have hit a wall in identifying the kingpins, hiding behind VPNs, and in some cases, based abroad. For instance, in the fake investment scheme and work-from-home scams unearthed recently, the kingpins are believed to be based out of the Gulf countries and are yet to be identified despite some leads.

"We need information from internet intermediaries to identify them and we are yet to find any luck with that. Meanwhile, our leads suggest they are abroad. Even if we identify them, there has not been a single case, to the best of our knowledge till date, where a person has been extradited from abroad to India in a cybercrime case," the official said. For instance, in the case of hoax bomb threat emails sent to schools in the city in 2022, the IP address was finally traced to Pakistan and the information handed over to the Central agencies, never to be heard of again.

"Internet intermediaries work as per the norms of the countries they are headquartered at and not as per Indian rules. Most of the intermediaries share initial information as much as their norms allow them to, beyond which they ask us to take the Interpol route, which takes months to get processed and precious time is lost. While messaging apps and social media platforms are better in cooperating with us, it is the VPN service providers, whose USP is anonymity and privacy, which have made many probes hit dead ends," explained a senior official involved with cybercrime investigations.

Student killed in accident involving BMTC bus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An engineering student was killed in an accident involving a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus near Harishchandra Ghat on Friday. The deceased has been identified as Kusumita, 21, a resident of Malleswaram and a second year engineering student in a private college at Kengeri.

Kusumita used to reach Mahakavi Kuvempu metro station by her scooter and then take the metro to Kengeri. On Friday morning, as she was coming to the metro station, a BMTC bus grazed her scooter, following which she fell and came under the rear wheels of the bus. Though she was rushed to a nearby private hospital, she was declared "brought dead".

Passersby staged an impromptu protest, blaming the BMTC bus driver for the accident. However, BMTC released footage from the CCTV camera from within the bus and said: "On careful inspection of the video clip, the two-wheeler rider overtook the bus – while operating from Shivajinagar to Kamalanagar – from the left side near Gayathrinagar. While trying to do so, the two-wheeler skid and fell on the left rear wheel of the bus as there was an auto on the opposite side".

Meanwhile, Malleswaram Traffic Police registered a case of causing death by negligence against the bus driver and seized the vehicle. "We have summoned the driver and BMTC officials for investigation," a senior official said.

IPS officer from State arrested in T.N. in assault case, released on bail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka-cadre Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Arun Rangarajan has been arrested in an assault case by the Gobi police in Erode, Tamil Nadu. He was arrested on January 31 and was later released on bail.

Mr. Rangarajan, a 2012-batch IPS officer, is posted as Superintendent of Police, Internal Security Division, Kalaburagi.

Assistant sub-inspector of police Sujatha, also posted in Kalaburagi, lodged a complaint against Mr. Rangarajan alleging that he had assaulted her when the duo had been to Tamil Nadu. She has allegedly sustained multiple injuries.

Another case

The duo was involved in another case in March 2023. Ms. Sujatha's husband and head constable Kanteppa had lodged a complaint alleging that the IPS officer had an illicit relationship with his wife and when he caught them, Mr. Rangarajan threatened and assaulted him. He had also alleged that the IPS officer had held his wife captive and sexually assaulted her. However, Ms. Sujatha had, in her statement, denied sexual assault.

Sources said Mr. Rangarajan and Ms. Sujatha had been to the former's home town in Tamil Nadu where she has now alleged that he physically assaulted her.

Mr. Rangarajan has been absent from work without any authorisation for over a week now, sources said. The Karnataka State police have recommended for his suspension, but the government is yet to act on it.

Disruption in power supply tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be a disruption in power supply on Sunday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the areas serviced from 66/11-kV A Station in view of carrying out quarterly maintenance work.

According to a release from Bescom, East Circle, the areas that will be affected are Seshadri Road, Kurubara Sangha Circle, Gandhinagar, Crescent Road, Seshadripuram Vinayaka Circle, Kumara Park East, K.G. Road, Tank Bund Road, Subedar Chatram Road, Lakshmanpuri area, Cubbonpet, Ananda Rao Circle, Racecourse Road, Chalukya Circle, High Grounds, part of OTC Road, BVK Iyengar Road, part of Avenue Road, Nrupatunga Road, Palace Road, Tulasi Thota, Magadi Road, Railway Colony, Gopalpura, Kumarakrupa Road, Cottonpet, D.K. Lane, Chickpet Main Road, Nagarthpet Main Road, S.P. Road, SJP Road, and Vittal Mallya Road.

1,896 cases booked for traffic violations around schools

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The traffic police conducted a special drive to book traffic violations around schools and colleges on Thursday and booked 1,896 cases and collected penalty totalling ₹9.48 lakh.

A majority of the cases booked – 1,279 – were for riding two-wheelers without helmets. A total of 455 cases were booked for driving on the wrong side in one way, 77 cases for riding on footpaths, and 85 cases for triple riding, according to the police.

Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya memorial lecture tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Navakarnataka Publications and Ma Le Prakashana are jointly organising a Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya memorial lecture on Sunday. M.R.N. Murthy, retired professor and researcher, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, will deliver the memorial lecture on 'Two cultures - Science and Pseudoscience'.

During the event, a book titled *Hindutva - Melody and Millstone*, written by G. Ramakrishna and published by Navakarnataka Publications, will also be released. The two programmes will be held at Dr. H.N. Multimedia Hall, National College, Basavanagudi, from 10.30 a.m.

Youth kills mother, surrenders before police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A youth allegedly assaulted and murdered his mother over a trivial issue at Bheemaiah Layout in K.R. Puram on Friday. The incident came to light when the accused walked into the K.R. Puram Police Station around 8.30 a.m., reportedly confessed to his crime and gave himself up.

The accused is a diploma student in Mulbagal and used to travel to college every day from K.R. Puram. On Friday around 7.15 a.m., when he was getting ready to leave for college, he reportedly asked his mother, Netra, 41, to serve him breakfast, to which she refused and allegedly said she would not serve him breakfast as he was not her son at all. Enraged by this, the boy told the police that he hit her on the head with an iron rod lying nearby, leading to her death. The police said they arrested the accused and were probing the motive for the murder.

KSRTC to launch 100 'Ashwamedha Classic' buses for point-to-point services

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation's 'Ashwamedha' bus.

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) will launch 100 new Ashwamedha buses, which are upgraded versions of the Karnataka Sarige non-AC buses, on Monday.

The new buses will be launched by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah near the steps of the Vidhana Soudha, according to KSRTC officials.

The news buses are branded as 'Ashwamedha Classic-Journey Redefined' and will operate on 'point-to-point' routes between the district headquarters and Bengaluru, officials said.

"The buses will have 52 seats and come equipped with front and rear LED destination boards. Furthermore, the buses will include amenities such as pneumatic doors with sensors and an emergency button," an official said.

DC holds peace meeting in Keragodu

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Deputy Commissioner of Mandya Kumara held a peace meeting in Keragodu village in Mandya district on Friday.

Superintendent of Mandya district police N. Yathish and Chief Executive Officer of Mandya Zilla Panchayat Shaikh Tanveer Asif were also present in the meeting attended by the leaders and the general public.

It may be mentioned here that a protest was held in the village on Sunday when the authorities replaced a saffron flag with the national flag from a flagpole erected in front of the Rangamandira on a piece of government land falling under the purview of the gram panchayat.

The Hindu Young World Quiz in city on Feb. 6

Sudhindr A.B.
BENGALURU

The bright young minds, once again, will get an opportunity to engage in an exciting battle of wits as the 22nd edition of The Hindu Young World Quiz will be held in Bengaluru on February 6, at Chowdiah Memorial Hall in Gayathri Devi Park Extension, 2nd Main Road, 16th Cross, Malleswaram.

For details, schools can call 9945232990 or 9986196254.

The event, presented by the State Bank of India, is open for students in two categories: Junior (Classes 4 to 6) and Senior (Classes 7 to 9). Schools may visit www.thehindu.com/yw-quiz for registration.

Each team must consist of two members for each category, and any *bona fide* team from a school can take part by paying a non-refundable registration fee of ₹200 per team. The team members must be from the same school/branch. No cross-teams are allowed for registration.

The team members in school uniforms with IDs issued by schools must be present at the venue one hour before the start of the event.

There will be preliminary written rounds and six teams will qualify (based on the marks obtained in preliminaries) for the on-stage final rounds. Naturo is the Treat Time Partner and UNIBIC is the Snack Partner for Karnataka.

GETTY IMAGES

Reds face testing times as Klopp era winds down

The German, who changed Liverpool's fortunes, will go down as one of the club's greatest managers. His players want to harness the emotion of his departure to ensure his trophy-laden reign ends with more silverware. Replacing the 56-year-old will be no easy task, however

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse

When Jurgen Klopp explained his decision to leave Liverpool after a successful but demanding eight and a half years, he again showed why he is such an effective, unique communicator. "We're not young rabbits anymore," he said, "and we don't jump as high as we once did."

For those who prefer mean machines to fluffy animals, he produced a different turn of phrase. "I am like a proper sports car," he said. "Not the best one, but a pretty good one. I can still drive 160, 170, 180 miles per hour, but I am the only one who sees the tank needle is going down."

Energy demands

Excellence demands near-limitless energy, especially for those whose methods rely heavily on it. "My coaching, my managing style is based on energy, I usually have enough to give it to a lot of people," Klopp said. "And if that's not there I am not the same."

The Liverpool job also took a lot out of the German. Having built up a reputation as a winner by leading Borussia Dortmund to back-to-back Bundesliga titles in 2011 and 2012, he faced an even more challenging task on Merseyside: that of resurrecting a giant.

Klopp changed Liverpool's fortunes after arriving at Anfield in 2015, returning the club to one of European football's powerhouses. In addition to guiding the Reds to their first league title for 30 years in 2020 and to Champions League glory in 2019, Klopp presided over triumphs in the FA Cup, League Cup, FIFA Club World Cup, UEFA Super Cup and Community Shield.

These successes, in isolation, merit high praise. When you consider that Klopp was up against Manchester City's seemingly unlimited resources – it has been charged with 115 breaches of the Premier League's financial regulations – and Pep Guardiola's genius, the value of these trophies increases substantially.

> This team is set up for the future... Whoever comes in, you cannot ever guarantee to win trophies, but has a really good chance to play really good football
> **KLOPP**

Klopp has been the perfect manager for Liverpool. His force of personality, charisma and coaching nous have resonated with an emotive fanbase. The club's history has been marked by tragedy as much as triumph. He quickly understood the emotion that drove the club, the impact of Hillsborough (the disaster, which killed 97 Liverpool fans in 1989, has left indelible scars), the respectful city rivalry with Everton and the far more visceral rivalry with Manchester United.

He knew the power of The Kop and engaged with the fans to gain the maximum benefit from that famous Anfield atmosphere, as he ran to them with his famous fist-pumping celebration, with his frenzied, toothy laughter, and they roared their appreciation and loved him back for recognising it.

So it was not shocking that his first match at Anfield after making his decision public, the FA Cup game against Norwich City, was even more emotionally charged than usual. "I get it, it's very emotional," Klopp told the *BBC*. "I just have to make sure that I don't get on that side of it. In the games, we need to be warriors and not celebrate the old man on the sidelines."

Four-pronged pursuit

Liverpool players have said they want to harness the emotion, so Klopp's trophy-laden reign can end with more silverware. The Reds' four-pronged trophy pursuit is alive, having secured a place in the League Cup final, advanced to the fifth round of the FA Cup and the knockout stages of the Europa League, and positioned themselves at the top of the Premier League.

But Liverpool will, like it has so often in the recent past, find City in its way. The clubs have jousted in several epic title clashes since Guardiola and Klopp both took charge, contributing to the most storied managerial rivalry since Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger locked horns. There are echoes of Ferguson-Wenger in Guardiola-Klopp – not unlike Wenger at Arsenal, Klopp has had to overcome an adverse balance of financial power.

Both Klopp and Guardiola have also pushed each other to become even better – their tactical battles have redefined football, changing the way the game is played across the world. "He's an absolutely incredible manager... personally he has been my biggest rival," said Guardiola. "I will miss [him], [but] I am pleased because without him I will sleep a little bit better!"

Klopp's impact on Liverpool extends beyond the field. His reign has helped Fenway Sports Group (FSG), its US owners, to reap a massive increase in valuation. FSG bought Liverpool for $383 million in 2010; the club is now valued about $5 billion, according to *Forbes*.

It's not surprising, therefore, that Klopp will go down as one of Liverpool's greatest managers. He is statistically the best the club has ever had in terms of win percentage (about 61%). His on-field success ranks him alongside other managerial greats at Anfield – Bill Shankly (11), Bob Paisley (20) and Kenny Dalglish (9), the only ones to have won more trophies for the club than Klopp's 7.

> He's an absolutely incredible manager... personally he has been my biggest rival. I will miss [him], [but] I am pleased because without him I will sleep a little bit better!
> **PEP GUARDIOLA**
> Manchester City manager

Shankly will always be the man who turned the club into a world power and Paisley will probably never be surpassed in terms of domestic and European silverware. Dalglish was worshipped as a player and manager and adored for his conduct around and since the Hillsborough tragedy.

These men all flourished when Liverpool was invariably the strongest team in England whereas Klopp has dealt with a more competitive era and overseen a transformation that has not been witnessed at the club in several decades. "Over the years my role was a pretty dominant one," said Klopp. "It was not intentional, but it happened."

Filling a vacuum

It's why replacing the 56-year-old will be so difficult. Legendary managers often leave behind a considerable vacuum, regardless of the talent at the disposal of their successor.

Liverpool is keen to avoid the fate suffered by United after Ferguson left, when the success dried up. The Merseyside club has said an "orderly process" to pick a new manager will be conducted privately, but that has not stopped the speculation from moving into hyperdrive.

Xabi Alonso, the Spanish former Liverpool player who has guided Bayer Leverkusen to the top of Bundesliga this season, is the bookmakers' favourite. Brighton boss Roberto De Zerbi is also in the running after leading the Seagulls into Europe this season for the first time. Julian Nagelsmann, Ange Postecoglou and even Steven Gerrard have been linked to the job, too.

Klopp said the solidity of Liverpool's foundation means he will step away without reservations about the team's future and he won't be offering his two cents on the way out.

"So many people work here with only one idea: to find a perfect solution for Liverpool FC," he said. "And the last thing they need is advice from the old man walking out telling them, 'By the way, make sure you bring him in,' or whatever. I will definitely not do that.

"This team is set up for the future... Whoever comes in, you cannot ever guarantee to win trophies, but has a really good chance to play really good football."

GAME THEORY

Sabalenka carves her name into history

Aryna Sabalenka joined the exclusive list of multiple-time women's singles champions at the Australian Open last Saturday. A look at the most prolific female winners at the tournament, which began as the Australasian Championships in 1905, became the Australian Championships in 1927 and took its final form as the Australian Open in the Open Era in 1969:

Aryna Sabalenka

Player	Titles	Editions won
Margaret Court	11	1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973
Serena Williams	7	2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2015, 2017
Nancye Wynne	6	1937, 1940, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1951
Daphne Akhurst	5	1925, 1926, 1928, 1929, 1930
Evonne Goolagong	4	1974, 1975, 1976, 1977 (Dec)
Steffi Graf	4	1988, 1989, 1990, 1994
Monica Seles	4	1991, 1992, 1993, 1996

Player	Titles	Editions won
Joan Hartigan	3	1933, 1934, 1936
Martina Navratilova	3	1981, 1983, 1985
Martina Hingis	3	1997, 1998, 1999
Margaret Molesworth	2	1922, 1923
Coral Buttsworth	2	1931, 1932
Thelma Coyne	2	1952, 1954
Mary Carter	2	1956, 1959
Chris Evert	2	1982, 1984
Hana Mandlíkova	2	1980, 1987
Jennifer Capriati	2	2001, 2002
Victoria Azarenka	2	2012, 2013
Naomi Osaka	2	2019, 2021
Aryna Sabalenka	2	2023, 2024

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Ski thriller

Italy's Hannah Auchentaller competes during the women's 7.5 km sprint event at the BMW IBU World Cup Biathlon Ruhpolding in Germany recently.

The biathlon is a winter sports discipline, with roots in Scandinavian skiing practices and Norwegian military training. It combines cross-country skiing and rifle-shooting in a race format.

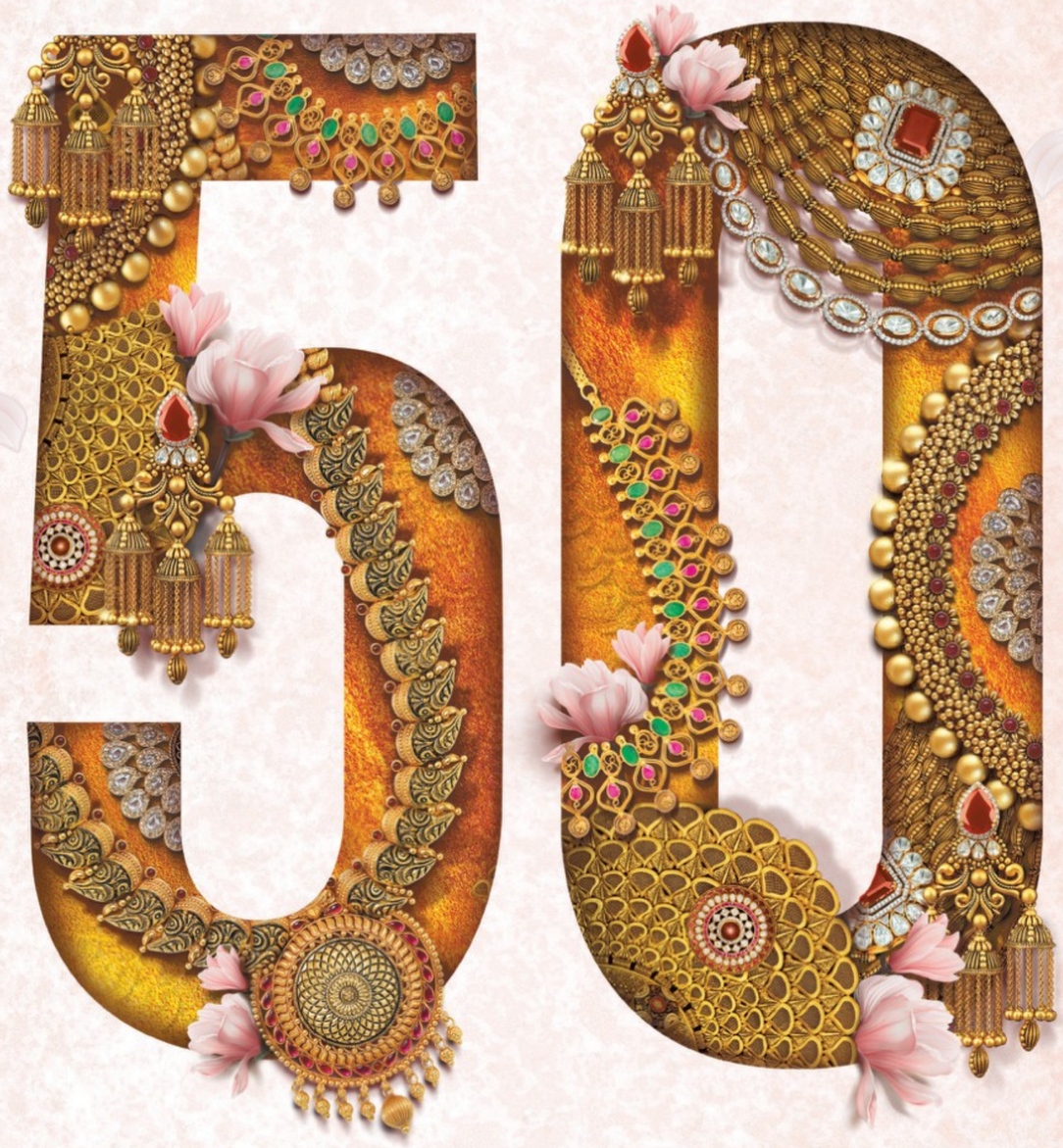
Contestants ski through a cross-country trail whose distance is divided into shooting rounds. The shooting rounds are not timed. But, depending on the type of competition (sprint, relay, mass start, pursuit, individual), missed shots result in a penalty of extra distance or time.

In the sprint, for instance, the distance (10 km for men, 7.5 km for women) is skied over three laps. The biathletes start in intervals and shoot twice in any shooting lane, once prone and once standing, totalling 10 shots. Every miss adds a penalty loop of 150m, which must be skied before continuing the race.

The World Cup is one of biathlon's premier competitions, a season-long series which has been staged since 1977-78 for men and 1982-83 for women.

THE BIGGEST JEWELLERY SALE IS BACK

FLAT



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TIRUCHIRAPPALLI CITY CORPORATION

Tender Notice No: 446/2023-2024

The tenderers willing to submit tenders for Providing HVAC along with transformer to integrated Bus Terminus, Panjappur, Tiruchirappalli City Corporation at an estimated amount of **Rs.1600.00 Lakhs,** to be executed under the O&M Deficit Grant Fund **2023-24** are requested to submit tenders through E-Tendering procedure in **http://tntenders.gov.in** as well as through sealed hard copies on or before **3.00.p.m.** of **23.02.2024**, which will be downloaded and opened at **04.00.p.m** in the same day. If the date of receipt of tender happens to be holiday, then tenders will be received in the succeeding working day at the same time and venue.

Pre bid meeting in this regard will be held on **13.02.2024** at **11.00 am** at Commissioner's Conference Hall, Corporation Main office. Other details may be obtained in the Engineering section, Main office during office hours in working days.

Tender Conditions are available in the above said website.

Commissioner,
Tiruchirappalli City Corporation

(E1/11144/2023(Main)) DIPR/ 644 /TENDER/2024

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED

(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
METROS, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035

File No. CMRL-RSP-001-2024 **TENDER NOTICE** **Dated: 03-02-2024**

e-procurement tender

e-Tender No. CMRL - RSP-001-2024

CMRL invites open e-tender through e-procurement portal from reputed, experience, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender through National Competitive Tender (NCB) under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical and Financial) system for the works as detailed below:

"DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF LED BACKLIT LCD BASED DYNAMIC ROUTE MAP DISPLAY IN 52 TRAINS OF CMRL PHASE-1 SECTION."

Please refer websites
1. **www.chennaimetrorail.org or**
2. **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**

for further information.

DIPR/637/TENDER/2024

Chief General Manager / Rolling Stock and S&T

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT

E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) - 52 / 2023-24

1. The Chief Engineer (World Bank Project), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge work as detailed below :
2. Nature of work : **Bridge work**
3. No. of work : **01 no.**
4. Tender Cost : **Rs.10,000.00 (on-line)**
5. Class of Contractor : **A / Special Class Contractor**
6. Available of bid document in the website : **From 10.00 AM of 03.02.2024 to 5.00 PM of 19.02.2024**
7. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt.20.02.2024 at 11.30 AM**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer (Bridges), World Bank Project, Odisha.

B-1728 : OIPR-34003/11/0090/2324

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our client intends to purchase the land totally admeasuring 3 Acres 09 Guntas excluding 02 Guntas of Kharab Land, comprised in various survey numbers of Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Whereas, the survey numbers, its respective extents and owners are morefully described in the **Schedule** hereto and hereinafter referred to as the **"Schedule Property".**

Any person/s, entity, firm, banks, institution (corporate or otherwise) having any claim/s including any right, title, interest, charge, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, should bring the same to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details of the right, title, interest, claim, pending litigation or demand made, together with supporting documents within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this notice, failing which such claim shall be considered to have been unconditionally waived and/or given up and our client shall be entitled to complete any transaction in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Objections and/or claims received after the completion/expiry of the period stipulated above shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE
DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing survey numbers (described below) totally admeasuring 3 Acres 09 Guntas 2 Guntas of Kharab Land, all situated Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded as follows:

Sl. No.	Owners Name	Survey Number	Extent		
			Acre	Guntas	Karab
1.	A M Associates	38/2	0	28	2
2.	A M Associates	75/2	0	18	0
3.	A M Associates	75/4	0	18	0
4.	A M Associates	88/1	0	26.8	0
5.	A M Associates	88/2	0	18.8	0
6.	A M Associates	97/5	0	21	0
	Total		3	9	2

Date: 02.02.2024
Place: Bangalore.

Perikal K Arjun (Advocate)
Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, 2nd Floor,
Prestige Sterling Square, State Bank of India Road, Bangalore – 560001.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwari Nagara Division,
BBMP Office, New Chowdeshwari Bus Stop, Mathikere, Bengaluru-560 054.

No.EE/RRND/Tend/11/2023-24 Date: 02-02-2024

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (Short Term Tender Notification)
Two Cover System (Through GOK Kpp Portal Only) (KW-3)

The Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwari Nagara Division, BBMP Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work & Category	Amount Put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
1.	Package No.01-RRNZ-RRND-(a) Construction & Improvements to the Roads & Drains (b) Renovation of Anganwadi Building & Other allied works in Ward No. 34 JP Park & 35 Yeshwantapura in RR Nagar Division for the Year 2023-24. **(Others).**	84.74	170000/-
2.	Package No.02-RRNZ-RRND-(a) Construction & Improvements. to the CC Roads, RCC Drains & Parks (b) Reconstruction of Public Toilet & other allied works in Ward No. 36 Jalahalli in RR Nagar Division for the Year 2023-24. **(Others).**	74.15	148000/-
3.	Package No.03-RRNZ-RRND-(a) Construction & Improvements to the Roads & Drains (b) Renovation of Samudhaya Bhavana & Reconstruction of Public Toilet & other allied works in Ward No. 36 Jalahalli in RR Nagar Division for the Year 2023-24. **(Others).**	63.56	127000/-
4.	Package No.04-RRNZ-RRND-(a) Construction & Improvements to the Roads, Drains & Pathways (b) Development works to the buildings & other allied works in Ward No. 37 Peenya in RR Nagar Division for the Year 2023-24. **(Others).**	75.22	150000/-
5.	Package No.05-RRNZ-RRND-(a) Construction & Improvements to the Roads, Drains & Pathways (b) Development works to the buildings & other allied works in Ward No. 37 Peenya in RR Nagar Division for the Year 2023-24. **(ST).**	75.22	76000/-
6.	Package No.06-RRNZ-RRND-(a) Construction & Improvements to the Roads, Drains & Pathways (b) Construction & Improvements to the existing toilets & other allied works in Ward No. 38 Lakshmidevinagar in RR Nagar Division for the Year 2023-24. **(SC).**	75.22	76000/-
7.	Package No.07-RRNZ-RRND-(a) Construction & Developments to the Roads & Drains (b) Construction of New Library, Anganwadi, Toilets & other allied works (c) Providing Pump for Borewell & Pipeline Connection for Houses in Ward No.41, Kottigepalya, 44 Jnanabharathi & 45 Rajarajeshwarinagar in RR Nagar Division for the year 2023-24. **(SC).**	56.91	60000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal from : **03.02.2024 onwards. (2)** Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **12.02.2024 at 3:30 p.m.** at Office of the Chief Engineer (RRN Zone), 18th Cross, Ideal Homes, RR Nagar, Bengaluru-98. **(3)** Any queries are to be submitted in written on **12.02.2024 at 10:00 a.m. (4)** Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on **17.02.2024 before 6:00 p.m. (5)** Date of opening of tenders on **19.02.2024 after 11:00 a.m.** and as per the e-procurement guidelines. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwari Nagara Division, BBMP.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division Ballari

Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Telephone No: 08392 -266123

No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-3/2023-24/4507 **Dated : 31-01-2024**

Short Term Tender Notification (Two Cover Sysytem)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through Karnataka public procurement portal. One and Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the web-site https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours. **TABLE**

Sl No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
	Reserved for SC Category	
1)	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT8130 (Reserved for SC Category)	93.37
2)	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT8145 (Reserved for SC Category)	59.77
3)	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT8132 (General Category)	120.00

Note : Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions and also re-tender, tenderers can view in KP Procurement Portal. No Separate Tender notification will be published in the News paper. in this regard.

1)Venue, Date and time of Pre Bid Meeting for the work of Sl.No.03 only: **03.02.2024 at 11.00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.** 2)Last dates for queries (through KP-procurement portal: **05.02.2024 upto 12.00 Hours.** 3)Last date for submission of tenders through kp-procurement portal: **09.02.2024 upto 16.00 Hours.** 4)Date and time of opening of Technical Bids: **12.02.2024 at 16.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari**

DIPR/Ballari/775/KSMCA/2023-24

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Ballari.

(Government of Karnataka)

Department of Tourism

Karnataka — One State, Many worlds — Department of Tourism

Office of the Director of Tourism,
No.3, 4th Floor, Embassy Icon, Infantry Road, Bangalore – 560001.
E-mail: director@karnatakatourism.org **Tel:** 080-22352727 **Fax :** 080-22352626.

No. DT/Pub-1/19/2023-24
Tender Indent Number: DT/2023-24/SE0015 **Date: 02-02-2024**

NOTICE INVITING FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Through E-Procurement Only)
Selection of an Agency to Update, Augment, Design, Develop, Operate, and Maintain the Portal, Websites, and Web-Based Applications and Services for Karnataka Tourism

Department of Tourism Government of Karnataka (DoT) intends to appoint an agency to Update, Augment, Design, Develop, Operate, and Maintain the Portal, Websites, and Web-Based Applications and Services for Karnataka Tourism by inviting proposal from competent agency(ies) having similar experience in accordance with the Request for Proposal (REP) Document. The Bidding Document may be downloaded from the E-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** from **Date: 02-02-2024** onwards. Bidders may submit their Proposals through e-procurement mode on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** website.

A pre-Proposal meeting will be held on **Date : 12-02-2024** at **12.00 PM.** at the below mentioned address of the Director, Tourism. The last date and time for submission of Proposals (Proposal Due Date) is **Date: 22-02-2024** upto **4.00 PM.** The Tender Inviting Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders to be received without assigning any reasons thereof. All subsequent notifications, changes and amendments will be posted only on the aforesaid e-procurement website.

In case of any queries/clarifications on the project/documents please contact Department of Tourism office.

Sd/-
Joint Director (P&P) and
Tender Inviting Authority Department of Tourism

DIPR/CP/3374/Zenkar/2023-24

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

NCB No. 23/ F.UGSS to Mannargudi Mpty (STP)/ KFW/ SDO / 2023/
Dated: 02.02.2024 (E-Submission)

E-bids are invited from the eligible bidders (Registered Class I Contractors-Civil) for the following works as per the procedure of TWAD Board under two cover system (**DBOT Basis)** conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

NCB No.	Name of work	Aprox. Value (Rs. In Crore including GST)	Bid Security	Pre bid meeting Date	E-Bid Submission closing Date	E-Bid Opening Date
23	Providing UGSS to Mannargudi Municipality in Thiruvarur District -Design, Engineering, Build, Operate and Commissioning of 10.05 MLD Capacity Sewage Treatment Plant at R.P.Sivam Nagar With Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) Technology **(DBOT Basis)** for a Construction Period of 18 months and performance Trial run 3 months followed by 10 years of Operation and Maintenance	Rs.20.10 Crore	Rs.0.21 Crore	05.03.2024 at 11.00 Hours	30.03.2024 upto 15.00 Hours	01.04.2024 at 15.30 Hours

Fund: **SBM 2.0, KFW & CGF**

EMD by online transfer only through NIC Portal. The tenderer shall submit scanned copy of online transaction statement towards EMD as part of Technical bid.

Availability of tender documents and e-bid submission is permitted through tender portal / website: **"https://tntenders.gov.in".** For all other details refer tender schedule in the website from **12.02.2024.**

DIPR/ 615 /TENDER/2024

Chief Engineer (i/c),
TWAD Board, Thanjavur

SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our client intends to purchase the land totally admeasuring 3 Acres 5.8 Guntas excluding 2.8 Guntas of Kharab Land, comprised in various survey numbers of Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Whereas, the survey numbers, its respective extents and owners are morefully described in the **Schedule** hereto and hereinafter referred to as the **"Schedule Property".**

Any person/s, entity, firm, banks, institution (corporate or otherwise) having any claim/s including any right, title, interest, charge, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, should bring the same to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details of the right, title, interest, claim, pending litigation or demand made, together with supporting documents within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this notice, failing which such claim shall be considered to have been unconditionally waived and/or given up and our client shall be entitled to complete any transaction in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Objections and/or claims received after the completion/expiry of the period stipulated above shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE
DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing survey numbers (described below) totally admeasuring 3 Acres 5.8 Guntas excluding 2.8 Guntas of Kharab Land, all situated Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded as follows:

Sl. No.	Owners Name	Survey Number	Extent		
			Acre	Guntas	Karab
1.	Narayanappa	48/3	0	29	0
2.	S C Parthasarthi	70/1	0	14	0
3.	S C Parthasarthi	72/1	0	28	1
4.	Shankar S N and Krishnaswamy S N	74/1	0	5.8	0
5.	D. Jayanthi	74/2	0	5.8	0
6.	Shankar S N and others	74/3	0	5.8	0.8
7.	R S Venkatesh	74/4	0	5.8	0
8.	S R Gopalkrishna	74/5	0	5.8	0
9.	Lakshmaiah and others	82/1	0	8	1
10.	R. Akhanda Srinivasmurthy	41/1	0	19	0
	Total Extent		3	5.8	2.8

Date: 02.02.2024
Place: Bangalore.

Perikal K Arjun (Advocate)
Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, 2nd Floor,
Prestige Sterling Square, State Bank of India Road, Bangalore – 560001.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Division,
LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru-560 008
Ph: 080-25037 131/174/214

Date: 02.02.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, item rate tenders are invited for the following work:

Name of work	**Term Contract for execution of minor/maintenance Civil & PH Works at LPSC(B) Campus, Bengaluru**
e-Tender Notice No.	**e-NIT No.: CMD/LPSC(B)/C/ MI/35/2023-24 dated 30.01.2024**
Estimated Amount	**₹ 5.00 Lakhs**
Period of completion	**06 Months**
Sale Period	**From 31.01.2024 to 09.02.2024**
Earnest Money Deposit	**₹ 10,000/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** Also, detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**

Sd/- Head, CMD, LPSC (B)

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: wwwpspcl.in
Mobile No. 96461-55525

Short Term E-Tender Enq. No. 7518/P-3/EMP-12557 dated 31.01.24

Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter(Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2023_POWER_116720_1 for the Procurement of spares MPO, Classifier blade for bowl mills of Stage-II & III, GGSTP, Ropar For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 01.02.24/05.00PM onwards.

Note:-Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

RTP- 17/24 **76155/12/2662/2023/31999**

Office of Managing Director, Bureau for Facilitating MSMEs of Tamil Nadu(FaMeTN)
MSME Department, Government of Tamil Nadu
1st Floor, SIDCO Corporate Office Building, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032

The following tender proposals may be accessed for appropriate responses

Sl.	Tendering Authority& Bid Submission Portal, Date of Issue and Bid Due Date (BDD) and time	Subject of Request for Proposal (RfP) and EMD
1.	General Manager, FaMeTN www.tenders.tn.gov.in Date of Issue : 03 February 2024 Bid Due Date & Time: 13 February 2024, 11 am	RFP for Empanelment of firm for conducting Reverse Buyer Seller Meets EMD is Rs. 50,000 each.
2.		RFP for Empanelment of Vendor for Communications and Public Relations EMD is Rs. 50,000 each.
3.		RFP for the Appointment of individual firm/ consortium of firms for supporting the MSME department in creating the Tamil Nadu Industry Database and associated IT services EMD is Rs. 1,00,000 each
4.		RFP for the Appointment of Consultants to prepare Industry Transformation Roadmaps for identified sectors in Tamil Nadu EMD is Rs. 1,00,000 each
5.		RFP for appointing a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) to support the Bureau for Facilitating MSMEs of Tamil Nadu (FaMeTN) in the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Agro-Industrial Corridor Project (TNAICP) EMD is Rs. 1,00,000 each

All subsequent communications will be available at the site mentioned above. The RfP notifications will also be available at **www.tenders.tn.gov.in.** RfPs can be downloaded till BDD and will be opened on the portal **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** on the respective BDD. The processes are meant to be end-to-end electronic and all submissions except presentations for the RFPs will be entirely online to the maximum extent possible. The responses could be used for empanelling firms and experts for similar projects in FaMeTN, at the sole discretion of the Tender Accepting Authority.

DIPR/628/TENDER/2024 **General Manager, FaMeTN**

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist.
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)

Unit - 2 : Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District,
Tamil Nadu, Ph.: 04332 - 261600

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
232413 006798	Supply of Debarked Eucalyptus pulpwood from open market sources of Karnataka to TNPL Unit-I at Kagithapuram.	26.02.2024
232423 004219	Supply of Debarked Eucalyptus pulpwood from open market sources of Karnataka to TNPL Unit-II at Mondipatti.	27.02.2024
232413 006799	Supply of Debarked Eucalyptus pulpwood from open market of Andhra Pradesh to TNPL Unit-I at Kagithapuram.	27.02.2024
232423 004220	Supply of Debarked Eucalyptus pulpwood from open market of Andhra Pradesh to TNPL Unit-II at Mondipatti.	26.02.2024
232423 004221	Supply of Debarked Bluegum pulpwood from open market sources of Tamil Nadu to TNPL Unit-II at Mondipatti.	28.02.2024
232423 004222	Supply of Debarked Acacia pulpwood from open market sources of Kerala to TNPL Unit-II at Mondipatti.	28.02.2024
232423 004223	Supply of Wattle pulpwood with bark from open market sources of Tamil Nadu to TNPL Unit-II at Mondipatti.	29.02.2024
TNPL invites Tender for sale of following Waste and Scrap materials on "as is where is" / Six months rate contract basis.		
2023045	Waste Paper (Condemned Paper Core) from TNPL Unit-I & Mayanur Unit.	19.02.2024
Email	**232413006798 ; 232423004219 ; 232413006799 ; 232423004220 ; 4221 ; 4222 ; 4223 - purchase.wood@tnpl.co.in 2023045 - stores.dis@tnpl.co.in**	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com**

DIPR/620/Tender/2024 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-02/68,69/2022-23/1679 **Date: 02.02.2024**

PUBLIC NOTICE

[UNDER SEC 69(3) OF The Karnataka Town & Country Planning ACT, 1961]

Sri A.C. Shanmugam, Managing Trustee, Moogambigai Charitable & Educational Trust has applied to Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority seeking to assign land use from "Public and Semi Public" to "Commercial" use under Sec 69(4) of the KTCP Act, 1961, for land in Sy.No.36/2 extent of 01Acre-04Guntas out of 02 Acre-22 Guntas and Sy.No.36/3 extent of 00Acre-39Guntas out of 01Acre-02Guntas totally measuring 02Acre-03Guntas of Avaragere Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagar Taluk.

and

Smt. S.Lalitha Lakshmi, Managing Trustee, Dr. MGR Educational & Research Institute Trust has applied to Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority seeking to assign land use from "Public and Semi Public" to "Commercial" use under Sec 69(4) of the KTCP Act, 1961, for land in Sy.No.37/89 extent 00Acre-05Guntas out of 00Acre-13Guntas, Sy.No.37/90 extent of 00Acre-09Guntas out of 01Acre-12½Guntas, Sy.No.37/87 extent of 00Acre-18Guntas out of 00Acre-31Guntas, Sy.No.37/91 extent of 00Acre-22Guntas out of 00Acre-32Guntas, Sy.No.37/76 extent of 01Acre-38Guntas out of 02Acre-14½Guntas, Sy.No.35/6 extent of 01Acre-32Guntas out of 01Acre-34Guntas, Sy.No.35/9 extent of 00Acre-19Guntas, Sy.No.35/7 extent of 04Acre-24Guntas, Sy.No.33/1 extent of 01Acre-12Guntas out of 05Acre-11Guntas and Sy.No.34 extent of 00Acre-17Guntas totally measuring 11Acre-36Guntas of Avaragere Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagar Taluk.

As per the approved Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority's Master Plan the proposed lands are earmarked for Public and Semi Public.

Therefore in order to assign land use from Public and Semi public to Commercial use, any objections to the said assigning of land use are invited from the public and any person may file his/her objection to the Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing with supporting documents and reasons for the same withing 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Any objection received after 15 days will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3383/MAA/23-24

Two Super Hit Thoughtful Topical Comedy Dramas by 'TV' Varadharajen
FIRST TIME IN BENGALURU

11th February Sunday

Tickets (both dramas combo offer)
Rs. 1500/-, Rs 1000 & Rs. 600/-

Contact :
'TV' VARADHARAJEN 94440 69292
SHANKAR KUMAR 9840357705

Written & Directed by 'Vedham Puthithu' Kannan

Venue : Krishnadevaraya Kala Mandira
(Behind Chowdaiah Hall), Malleswaram, Bengaluru

Online booking : bookmyshow

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
E-Tender No. SBC-GSU-ENGG-2023-22
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Bengaluru Cantonment	Rs. 12,91,68,075.26
Whitefield Quadrupling: Proposed linking of BG track & other allied works from Km 350/200 to 332/600 between Bengaluru Cantonment and Whitefield stations.	

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 19-02-2024
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti Bengaluru
PUB/664/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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ADMISSIONS OPEN

INTENSIVE TRAINING COURSE IN PACKAGING
60th Batch
Course Duration : 3 Months (Full Time)
Eligibility:
Minimum 12th passed /ITI
Age: No age limit
Admission on first-come-first served basis.

DIPLOMA IN PACKAGING
29th Batch
Course Duration : 18 Months (Through Correspondence)
Eligibility:
Degree / Diploma in any Discipline
Age: No age limit
One-year Working experience in the packaging field

The last date to apply : 29th February 2024
For more details, please visit our website: www.iip-in.com
Contact : 8939365583, 8691853911
Indian Institute of Packaging
E-2, MIDC Area, Andheri East, Mumbai-400 093
Tel: 91-22-69192242/3/4 Email: dpc@iip-in.com

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO 03/SBC/24 of 29-01-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Bengaluru-Jolarpettai Section:** Deep screening by BCM in connection with the work of CTR(P) of exg. 52kg/90UTS rails on 52kg PSC Sleepers of 1540 No's/ Km. with 60kg/90UTS rails on 60kg sleepers of 1660 No's/ Km. for a length of 25.70 Kms from Km. 275/000-279/000, 283/000-303/000 and 311/300-313/000 between Kuppam and Malur stations (down line).	Rs. 79,65,894/-
2	**Bengaluru-Jolarpettai Section: Sub Work - I** :- Through renewal of existing steel channel sleeper with H-Beam sleeper at Bridge No. 683 UP and Down, 728 Dn and 760 Up and Dn in Assistant Divisional Engineer /Bangarapet Section. **Sub Work -II**: Proposed fixing of sign boards on approaches of Bridges (29 No's). Br No. 683 Up and Dn, 760 Dn, 838A Up and Dn, 863 Up and Dn of Jolarpettai - Bengaluru = 7 Bridges. Maintenance period is 12 Months.	Rs. 1,18,11,873/-
3	**Bengaluru -Jolarpettai Section**:- Satellite Goods terminal yard (SGT): Construction of Pit line for a length of 150m at Rd 1 Krishnarajapuram end. Maintenance period is 12 Months.	Rs. 1,80,27,731/-
4	**Bengaluru - Mysuru Section: Sub Work - I**: Improvements to Road-5 loading and unloading area at Settihalli (SET) from Km. 62/300-900 and construction of merchant room at Settihalli yard. **Sub Work - II**: Proposed provision of pay and use toilets at Settihalli (SET) - (Platform - 1) and Bidadi (BID) (Platform 1/2). **Sub Work - III**: Proposed improvements for Video Surveillance System at KSR Bengaluru (SBC), Bengaluru Cantt (BNC) and Mandya (MYA) Stations. Maintenance period is 12 Months.	Rs. 2,85,14,777/-
5	**Bengaluru Division :** Supply and execution of welding portions at various locations in Senior Divisional Engineer/West/Bengaluru and Divisional Engineer/East/Bengaluru jurisdiction.	Rs. 46,96,274/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 20-02-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/667/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination/Bengaluru
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
SALEM DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE No. SA-E22-2023-24-W1-W5
Divisional Railway Manager / Electrical / Salem Division, Salem - 5 for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc., can be viewed / downloaded from website portal www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender Notice No, Date and Name of Work	Details
1) SA-E22-2023-24-W1 Dated: 30.01.2024 Development of Divyangjan friendly facilities at Kunnathur (KNNT), Thonganur (TNGR), Danishpet (DSPT), Karuppur (KPPR), Magudanchavadi (DC), Salem Market (SAMT), Mecheri Road (MCRD), Mettur Dam (MTDM) Stations over Salem Division - Electrical Arrangements.	**Approx. Cost - ₹ 3,66,528.00/- EMD - ₹ 7,300/- Completion Period - 6 Months**
2) SA-E22-2023-24-W2 Dated: 30.01.2024 Development of Divyangjan friendly facilities at Anangur (ANU), Vanjipalaiyam (VNJ), Somanur (SNO), Sulur (SUU), Coimbatore North (CBF), Coimbatore (CBE), Podanur (PTJ), Thudiyalur (TDE), Periyanaikanpalayam (PKM), Mettupalayam (MTP) Stations over Salem Division - Electrical arrangements.	**Approx. Cost - ₹ 4,58,440.00/- EMD - ₹ 9,200/- Completion Period - 6 Months**
3) SA-E22-2023-24-W3 Dated: 30.01.2024 Development of Divyangjan friendly facilities at Ayodhyyapattanam (APN), Minnampalli (MPLI), Talaivasal (TVS), Melnariyapanur (MLYR), Siruvattur (SRVT), Kuttakudi (KKTI), Vangal (VNGL), Timmachipuram (TIC), Marudur (MUQ), Jiyapuram (JPM) Stations over Salem Division - Electrical arrangements.	**Approx. Cost - ₹ 4,58,160.00/- EMD - ₹ 9,200/- Completion Period - 6 Months**
4) SA-E22-2023-24-W4 Dated: 30.01.2024 SA Division - Extension of IOH shed with one coach length pitline in Road 3 at Coimbatore - Electrical arrangements.	**Approx. Cost - ₹ 2,60,482.00/- EMD - ₹ 5,200/- Completion Period - 6 Months**
5) SA-E22-2023-24-W5 Dated: 30.01.2024 SA Division - Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for Air conditioners and Water coolers installed over Salem Division for the period of Two Years.	**Approx. Cost - ₹ 42,42,400.00/- EMD - ₹ 84,900.00/- Completion Period - 24 Months Tender booklet cost: 3,540/-**
For all the works Closing Time & Date	**15.00 hrs. on 01.03.2024**
For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date	**15.30 hrs. on 01.03.2024**

All Addendum / Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.
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Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited
(CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office : Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004.
Telephone :-0651-2400799 & Fax : 0651-2400799
https://www.jbvnl.co.in Email- cecr2018@gmail.com

Emergent Short E-Tender Notice
NIT No. - 406 /PR/JBVNL/2023-24

Emergent Short e-tender for selection of full turnkey contractor for development of distribution infra structure in Electric supply Circle , **Chas** for an estimated cost Rs 156.16 Crores under Loss Reduction of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) sanction by Ministry of Power, GoI and approved by GoJ.

SN	Details of Work	
1	Development of distribution infrastructure like replacement of LT Conductor to AB Cable Erection of LT & 11kv line, installation of New DTR ,etc	
2	Estimated Cost- Rs 156.16 Crores(all inclusive)	
3	**Calendar of Events :**	
i.	**Date of Publication of NIT on website**	03.02.2024
ii	**Last Date / Time for receipt of bids(online)**	12.02.2024 at 15:00Hrs
iii	**Last Date / Time for receipt of bids(in hard copy in the office of GM(Coml.)**	12.02.2024 at 13:00Hrs
iv.	**Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid**	13.02.2024 at 16:00 Hrs

The tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and should upload all relevant documents as mentioned in the tender document only through online e-tender portal/website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Save Energy ,Save Nation for Better tomorrow

Sd/-
General Manager (Coml.)
PR 317763 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd) 23-24 (D)

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, RR Nagara Zone, BBMP Building, C A No.3, 1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Upanagara, Bengaluru-560060.
No. EE/KEN/TEND/17/2023-24 Date: 02.02.2024
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Tender Notification) (Two Cover System), (Through GOK Kppp Portal) Call-2
The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BBMP Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (₹. in Lakhs)
1.	Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains in Ward No.40, Doddabidarakallu of Herohalli Sub Division (5 Works) Package-1.	798.18	12.00 (Rs.1.00 Lakh online & remaining balance BG/FDR)

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Govt. of Karnataka at **4:00 p.m.** onwards on **05.02.2024. (2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **08.02.2024 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Office of the Chief Engineer, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeshwari Nagara Zone, Bengaluru-98. **(3)** Tenders must be submitted online through Kppp portal before **4:00 p.m.** on **12.02.2024. (4)** Bids will be opened on **13.02.2024 at 4:00 p.m. (5)** This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP website: www.bbmp.gov.in. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BBMP

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Project Central-4, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.
No: EE/PC-4/TEND/03/2023-24 Date: 02-02-2024
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)
The Government of Karnataka Vide G.O. No. UDD 389 MNY 2023-24, Bengaluru dated: 09-01-2024, has accorded approval for the action plan in the Sanctioned Budget 2023-24 for taking up of the work listed below.
The Executive Engineer (Project Central-4), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount Put to Tender Including GST, all Taxes. (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Comprehensive Development of Selected Roads by Providing White Topping under GOK Grants 2023-24. **(Package-1)**	10258.46	102.6

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 02-02-2024. 2)** Last Date for Submission of Online Queries is **08-02-2024. 3)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **09-02-2024 at 16.00 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer (Project). 4)** Tenders must be Submitted online through e-Procurement Portal **on or before 17.30 Hours on 17-02-2024. 5)** Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer (Project Central-4) on 19-02-2024 at 10.30 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project Central-4, BBMP.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO 02/SBC/24 of 25-01-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Sub Work -I:-** Proposed fixing of Sign Boards on approache of of bridges ie., Br. No. 535 Up, 516 Up, 490, 480, 434, 319, 288, 285, 281, 268, 266, 259, 224, 214 and 197 of Baiyappanahalli (BYPL) - Dharmavaram (DMM) Section (Total 15 Bridges). **Sub Work - II** : Proposed fixing of Sign Boards on approaches of bridges ie., Br. No. 257 of Yelahanka-Bangarpet section, 352 A of Bengaluru-Tumakuru section (Total 2 Bridges). **Sub Work - III** : Bengaluru - Tumakuru : Strengthening of Bridge No. 268 at Km. 93/000-200 in Assistant Divisional Engineer /Yesvanthpur Sub Division. **Sub Work - IV** : Replacement of steel girder with PSC slab for Bridge No. 490 (1x12.20m) at Km. 29/800-900 between Rajanukunte and Dodballapur stations of Baiyappanahalli - Dharmavaram Section. [COMPOSITE TENDER]. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 1,54,04,767/-
2	**Sub Work - I** :- Senior Divisional Engineer /North/Bengaluru Section : Manufacturing, supply and execution of 52kg/60kg AT Welding at various locations. **Sub Work - II** : Senior Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru Section: Supply of welding portions 60kg/52kg including in-situ welding in connection with the work of **"(a)** CTR(P) for a length of 16km from 11/900-23/000 and 72/100-77/000 SL to replace D Mark rails, **(b)** Through ballast recoupment of points and crossings at Nelamangala (NMGA) yard - 08 No's, **(c)** TFR without ERC for a length of 12.8km from km 1/200-14/000 between Chikka Banavara (BAW) - Nelamangala (NMGA) stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Kunigal Section and **(d)** Through Ballast recoupment of Points and crossings at Dharmapuri (DPJ), Rayakottai (RYC), Periya Naga Thunai (PRNT), Kelamangalam (KMLM) and Banaswadi (BAND) yards - Total 11 No's in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Dharmapuri Section"	Rs. 1,12,77,888/-
3	**Bengaluru - Arsikere Section:** Proposed foot over bridge at Dabaspete (DBS) station. Maintenance period is 12 months.	Rs. 2,03,35,530/-
4	**Bengaluru - Salem Section :** Construction of side drain for a length of 1.5 Km. in connection with the work of "Through Ballast recoupment of Points and crossings at Dharmapuri (DPJ), Rayakottai (RYC), Periya Naga Thunai (PRNT), Kelamangalam (KMLM) and Banaswadi (BAND) yards - Total 11 No's. in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Dharmapuri Section". Maintenance period is 6 months.	Rs. 1,31,31,168/-
5	**Bengaluru Division :** Replacement of steel girder for Bridge No. 422 at Km. 0/800-900 (B-Line and shunting neck) between Bengaluru (SBC) - Yesvanthpur (YPR) section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 2,61,17,051/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 19-02-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/659/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination/Bengaluru
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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Misappropriation of IEDSS scheme grants: Five Education Department officers suspended

An FIR has been registered against 56 officials of the department and 22 NGOs for criminal offences

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government suspended five officers of the Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI) cadre in the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) on January 30 for dereliction of duty in the implementation of the Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) scheme.

An FIR has been registered against 56 officials of the DSEL and 22 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for criminal offences such as forging documents during the implementation of the scheme.

N.H. Nagura, A.S. Hattahalli, S.A. Mujawar, B.H. Millana Shetty, and Pundalika, who were working as Block Education Officers (BEOs) at the time of the case and are currently working as officers in different sections of the department, are the suspended officers.

The Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage is a Central and State government-sponsored scheme to enable students with disabilities to pursue four years of secondary schooling. FILE PHOTO

The IEDSS is a Central and State government-sponsored scheme to enable students with disabilities to pursue four years of secondary schooling after completing eight years of elementary schooling in an inclusive and enabling environment. It was launched in 2009-10. The scheme replaced the Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) scheme.

The IEDSS provides assistance for inclusive education of children with disabilities in classes four to seven. The scheme covers all children studying at the secondary stage in government, aided schools, with one or more disabilities as defined under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, and the National Trust Act, 1999, in classes four to seven, namely blindness, low vision, leprosy cured, hearing impairment, locomotory disabilities, mental retardation, mental illness, autism, and cerebral palsy, and may eventually cover speech impairment, learning disabilities, etc.

Funds are released per student for student-oriented components, such as medical and educational assessment, books and stationery, uniforms, transport allowance, reader allowance, stipend for girls, support services, assistive devices, board and lodging facility, therapeutic services, teaching learning materials, etc.

The School Education Department is the implementing agency and it involves NGOs having experience in the field of education of children with disabilities in the implementation of the scheme.

However, according to sources, officials of department committed large-scale irregularities while releasing the grant for the implementation from 2009-10 to 2011-12. In this regard, in the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meeting held on February 26, 2019, it was found that the authorities had released funds to non-existent NGOs. The PAC also recommended disciplinary action against the officials who recommended the release of funds to non-existent NGOs.

Then, the Comptroller and Auditor General report, dated May 13, 2022, objected to the release of additional funds to 18 NGOs and asked for refund.

The Commissioner of Public Instruction then prepared a chargesheet against 56 officials and other employees and submitted it to the government for disciplinary action. On the instructions of the government, an FIR was registered on September 19, 2023 against 56 accused officials and 22 NGOs.

Of the 56 officers named in the chargesheet, 16 approached the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal (KSAT). The KSAT has issued a stay order in favour of eight officers. Of the remaining eight accused officers, three have retired from service and a civil case has been registered against them for causing financial loss to the department. The remaining five officers have been suspended from service.

Midday meal programme to be extended during summer vacation in drought-hit taluks

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Midday meals will be served during summer vacation from April 11 to the last week of May. FILE PHOTO

Due to the drought situation in Karnataka, the State government has decided to extend the midday meal programme to schoolchildren in 223 drought-hit taluks during the summer vacation. The government has decided to extend the programme for 41 days in April and May. Around 55 lakh government and aided school children from classes one to eight will benefit by this.

The Director of 'PM Poshan' of the Department of School Education has instructed all Block Education Officers (BEOs) and Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPIs) to send the information regarding the identification of the number of children who are willing to or desire to receive midday meals in the summer vacation, before February 3.

According to the Union government's Drought Management Manual-2020 Drought Mitigation Guidelines, the State government has surveyed and declared 223 taluks out of the total 236 as drought-prone taluks.

The midday meals programme will end by April 10 for the academic year of 2023-24. Then the summer vacation midday meals will start on April 11 and end in the last week of May.

Consent letter

The government has made the consent letter from the parents of the children willing to receive the midday meals in the summer vacation mandatory. The headmasters of schools should get the consent letter from the parents. Officials should inform the department about the number of children receiving midday meals at the school level based on the letters of consent.

Information is also being collected from the parents about where the children will be during the summer vacation, and which school should distribute the meals to the children. Sources of the department said that arrangements would be made to provide midday meals to the children concerned in the school of their respective towns.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sindhu B. Rupesh, Director of PM Poshan of the Department of School Education, said, "We have instructed officials to collect information about children who are willing to receive midday meals. After getting the data, we will submit the proposal to the Union government to extend the midday meals during the summer vacation and for additional funds too."

Special Court issues summons to Udhayanidhi Stalin

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Special Court here on Friday ordered issue of summons to Udhayanidhi Stalin, Tamil Nadu Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, on a private complaint lodged against him for making derogatory statements against Sanathana Dharma.

Preeth J., judge of the Special Court of Magistrate for trial of cases against present as well as former MPs/MLAs, passed the order on the complaint lodged by Paramesha V.

The court has taken cognisance of offences under Sections 153 (Wantonly giving provocation, with intent to cause riot), 298 (Uttering words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings) and 500 (defamation) of the Indian Penal Code.

The court has also ordered issue of summons go three others – Venkatesh S., Madhukar Ramalingam, and Adavan Dichanya – who were part of the event held in Tamil Nadu in which Mr. Udhayanidhi Stalin had made the controversial statement against Sanathana Dharma.

Mr. Udhayanidhi Stalin, who is the son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, has been arraigned as accused number one in the criminal case.

The complainant has stated that he belongs to the Scheduled Tribe community and follows Sanathana Dharma and the derogatory statement made by Mr. Udhayanidhi Stalin has defamed him, his religion and the people belonging to the Hindu faith. Further proceedings in the case has been adjourned till March 4.

Tele ICU hubs planned in 60 taluks to address shortage of specialists

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Minister of Health Dinesh Gundu Rao during the launch of Bengaluru and Ballari tele ICU cluster hub in Victoria Hospital on Friday.

To address the shortage of specialist doctors in taluk-level hospitals and reduce referrals of patients to district hospitals, the State Health Department has launched a Bengaluru and Ballari tele ICU cluster hub at the Trauma and Emergency Care Centre (TECC) on Victoria Hospital premisis here. The department is now planning to start similar hubs in 60 taluk hospitals by next year.

This project, launched through a public-private partnership with the E-Governance Foundation, will facilitate the monitoring of critical patients in rural hospitals by experts from the hub hospital (medical colleges and district hospitals), thereby providing them timely treatment.

Hubs and spoke centres

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said four government medical institutions have been created as hubs and 41 taluk hospitals have been linked to them as spoke centres. As many as 10 tele ICU beds have been arranged in each of these 41 taluk hospitals and superspeciality care will be available to patients with the advice of expert doctors through AI technologies, he said.

Already, 13 spoke hospitals in the Mysuru division and 10 in the Belagavi division have been integrated with Mysuru Medical College and Research Institute (MMCRI) and Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) in Hubballi, resulting in over 11,000 patients receiving treatment through tele ICU services. Besides, nine taluk hospitals each have been linked to the Bengaluru and Ballari tele ICU cluster. "We are planning to set up tele ICUs in 60 taluk hospitals next year," he said.

Through this project, the Health Department is anticipating a reduction in referrals from spoke hospitals to district-level facilities. "This shift will not only ease the burden on healthcare professionals but also significantly improve patient outcomes, potentially increasing recovery rates by up to 70%. Additionally, the introduction of a generative artificial intelligence-based digital tool, as part of the first 10-bed ICU scheme in the State, will streamline patient care and alleviate the workload on healthcare staff," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who inaugurated the Bengaluru and Ballari tele ICU cluster hub, said the facility is a boon to patients in rural areas.

Lion dies at Tyavarekoppa safari near Shivamogga

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Lion Sarvesh, aged about 13, died at Tyavarekoppa Tiger and Lion Safari near Shivamogga on Wednesday night.

The lion was brought to Tyavarekoppa from Bannerghatta zoo in Bengaluru about four years ago.

Mukund Chandra, Executive Director of the safari, informed the media on Friday that the animal died due to age-related health issues. The carcass was disposed of after a post-mortem as per the set procedure.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, FEB. 03		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:21
RISE	00:19	SET 12:05
SUNDAY, FEB. 04		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:21
RISE	01:12	SET 12:50
MONDAY, FEB. 05		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:22
RISE	02:08	SET 13:41

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	22
Mysuru	32	18
Bengaluru	32	16

Bengaluru Today
30°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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Dry chilli mela begins in Hubballi

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

A three-day dry chilli mela organised with the objective of providing a direct marketing platform to chilli growers began at Moorusavir Mutt playground in Hubballi on Friday with Labour Minister and Dharwad district in-charge Santosh Lad inaugurating it.

The Minister interacted with the chilli farmers and students pursuing horticulture courses and sought information from officials on the latest trends in the spices cultivation. The 12th Dry Chilli Mela has been jointly organised by Karnataka State Spices Development Board, Horticulture Department, Karnatak Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Hubballi, Amara Shiva FPO, Saunshi, and Uluva Yogi FPO, Hubballi.

Speaking to pressperson after the inauguration, Mr. Lad said such events would help the farmers in finding a direct market for their yield and also selling their produce without the involvement of any middlemen.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
E-Tender Notice Bid Number: GEM/2024/B/4461303 Dated: 24-01-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Bengaluru Division Hiring:- of 15T Open Lorries for transportation of fully assembled Coach bogies, wheels and other Railway materials by road between Bengaluru City / Yesvantpur /SMVB Coaching depot/SGT (Whitefield) Wagon Depot and Ashokapuram (Mysuru)/Hubballi Workshops and vice versa for a period of 2 Years.	Rs. 5,83,90,164/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 12:00 Hrs. on 14-02-2024**
For details log on : https://gem.gov.in
Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer
PUB/666/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Smt. Rashmi Shivashankar, D/o. Sri. Shivashankar N. M. & Sri. Naveen Kumar N. S/o. Sri. Nagesh S. N. have intending to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owners 1. Smt. C. Jayamma W/o. Late. P. Chinnappa and her children 2. Smt. C. Pushpalatha, 3. Sri. C. Bharath Kumar & 4. Smt. M. N. Ashwini W/o. C. Bharath Kumar are Rep. by their GPA Holders M/s. Suguna Builders & Developers Represented by its partners and Authorized Signatories, Sri. K. T. Narayanaswamy & Sri. K. N. Sandeep Kumar, having office at No. RRS Towers, No.41/517, 4th Floor, 46th Cross, 7th Main, 5th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore- 560041.
If any persons, banks, financial intuitions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the residential Apartment bearing Flat No. 185, measuring 1245 Sq. Ft. of SBA in wing-1, 8th Floor of project know as "SUGUNA PRISTINE SQUARE" constructed in the converted Land bearing Old Sy. No. 142, New Sy. No. 142/2, situated at Halagevaderahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on as follows: East : Road, West : Sy. No. 142/1, North : 80 ft. Road, South : Sy. No. 179 of Halagevaderahalli
MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-68, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 02-02-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the General Public that my client **Sri. Deepak C Reddy S/o. Late V.C. Reddy,** Residing at No.409, 5th Cross, 7th Main Road, J.P. Nagar, 3rd Phase, Near Vijaya Bank, Sarakki Branch, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560 078, as entered into on Absolute Sale Deed for the purchase of the property described in the schedule hereunder from the owners **1) Smt. Nanda** D/o. Late L. Chandra Reddy, W/o. Rajendra Reddy .P. Residing at No.76, Bandapura Village, Marasur Post, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District-562106, **2) Sri. Mukunda S.C.** S/o. Late L. Chandra Reddy, Residing at No.106, 14th Cross, Near Old Harilakshmi Theatre, Wilson Garden, Bangalore South, Bangalroe-560 030 **3) Smt. Aruna .C,** D/o. Late L. Chandra Reddy, W/o. Saiprasad S.R., Residing at No.146, 28th Main, 5th Cross, HSR Layout, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560 102. Any persons having any claim, title or interest over the schedule property or any objections to the proposed purchase may file their objections in writing along with copies of the supporting documents to the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of this publication, failing which my client will be advised to go a head and complete the sale formalities.
1. All the piece and parcel of the **Agricultural Land bearing Sy.Nos.468/1C, Measuring 0-06 Guntas, Situated at Madiwala Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District together with paths, passages, ways, watercourses, easementary rights, liberties whatsoever appurtenant there to and together** and bounded on the:- **East by: Kere, West by: Land belongs to G. Rama Reddy, North by Anil Reddy & South by: Kere.**
2. All the piece and parcel of the **Agricultural Land bearing Sy.Nos. 468/1A, Measuring 0-04 Guntas, Situated at Madiwala Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District together with paths, passages, ways, watercourses, easementary rights, liberties whatsoever appurtenant there to and together** and bounded on the:- **East by : Land belongs to G. Rama Reddy, West by : Land belongs to Muni Reddy, North by : Land belongs to Anil Reddy & South by: Kere.**
3. All the piece and parcel of the **Agricultural Land bearing Sy.No.442/3, Measuring 0-08 Guntas, Situated at Madiwala Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District together with paths, passages, ways, watercourses, easementary rights, liberties whatsoever appurtenant there to and together** and bounded on the:- **East by: Land belongs to Munireddy, West by: Land belongs to Bhadra Reddy, North by: Land belongs to Muni Reddy & South by: Land belongs to Deepak C. Reddy.**
4. All the piece and parcel of the **Agricultural Land bearing Sy.No.442/7, Measuring 0-11 Guntas, Situated at Madiwala Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District together with paths, passages, ways, watercourses, easementary rights, liberties whatsoever appurtenant there to and together** and bounded on the:- **East by: Raja Kaluve, West by: Land belongs to Bhadra Reddy, North by: Private Property & South by: Land belongs to Ravindramma.**
H.V. Ramaswamy Reddy
Advocate
Hotel Ganesh Upahar, P.M. Krishnappa Road
Bangalore-560 002. M : 9844175015

ई0 प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, लातेहार
ई– प्रोक्योरमेन्ट नोटिस
ई–टेन्डर रेफरेन्स नं0–04/2023-24/EE/BCD/LATEHAR
दिनांक– 02.02.2024

क्र0सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि
1	**Construction of Multipurpose Shopping Complex at Mangra, Block-Barwadih, Latehar**	**1,38,38,600.00**

1. कार्य पूर्ण की अवधि :–09 (Nine) Months
2. वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 08/02/2024 को 11:00 बजे
3. बिड प्राप्ति के लिए अन्तिम तिथि/समय :– 21/02/2024 को 11:00 बजे
4. निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पत्ता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, लातेहार।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि/समय एवं स्थान :– 22.02.2024 को 11:30 बजे नोडल पदाधिकारी, ई0 प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल,मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, लाईन टैंक रोड, राँची।
6. प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या :–9431501121
7. ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या :–8434414939
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. सूचना प्रौधोगिकी एवं ई–गवर्नेस विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के आदेश ज्ञापांक 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के द्वारा निर्गत SOP (मानक संचालन प्रक्रिया) एवं भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के पत्रांक 2229 दिनांक 06.10.2023 के आलोक में निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, SOP के तहत् अग्रधन की राशि उसी खाते में वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सम्पूर्ण जवाबदेही निविदादाता की होगी।

• अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के बदलाव की सूचना http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

Note :- UCAN Registration in mandatory for the Bidders.

PR 317752 (Building)23-24*D

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भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, लातेहार

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THE HINDU

ENVIRONMENT

Chicago skyline aerial view at dusk. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Urban development: Should environment pay the price?

The next decade bears the potential to define the growth of Indian infrastructure. Moving towards sustainable cities provides a new perspective on urban sprawl

Ravi Sarangan

India grapples with surging housing and infrastructure needs – all the while striving to balance growth with minimal environmental impact from construction. The concept of building 'less for more' has gained significance in recent times due to the alarming effects of climate change and depleting natural resources. Understanding the causes and effects of urban sprawl and its impact on urban redevelopment requires a multidimensional perspective.

In addition, policy options must be discussed to steer urban development towards more sustainable pathways.

Repurposing spaces

Compact, efficient, and multi-functional designs to optimise space and resource utilisation can reduce energy and materials required for construction, thereby minimising environmental impact, and enhancing the efficiency of transportation and infrastructure.

To maintain a progressive outlook on evolving paradigms of enhancing space quality, architects must learn and adapt to new ideas and technologies while repurposing existing structures.

Compassionate approach

The focus here is on the need for repurposing spaces and reducing the demand for building new structures. This approach aims to promote sustainable urban development by utilising available resources efficiently, reducing carbon footprint, and creating a healthier and more liveable environment for the present and future generations.

Smart growth or mixed-use development is the fundamental principle that helps mitigate the issue of urban sprawl. Smart growth is an overall approach of development and conservation strategies that helps protect our health and natural environment and makes our communities more viable and resilient to climate change. Such advanced developments are encouraged to prevent rural areas from becoming more populated due to constant urban expansion. Moving towards sustainable cities provides a new perspective on urban sprawl and its causes and consequences.

The next decade bears the potential to define the growth of Indian infrastructure. However, development confines its own pros and cons. The growth of GDP is accompanied by several positive social impacts, including improved access to food, education, employment opportunities as well as investments in real estate. On the contrary, we must acknowledge the cons of such policies, resulting in poverty alleviation and disposable incomes causing waste.

Common challenges

In the 70s and 80s, reducing, reusing, and recycling played a significant role in India's supply and demand chain.

Due to short supply, luxury was considered an ornamental addition to design rather than a priority. In current times, it is essential to balance the need for both growth and demand.

In a rapidly growing country such as India, where demand is skyrocketing, easy access to affordable housing development schemes can tackle the need for building more/spatial requirements.

Ideally, it would be beneficial to construct spaces with similar codes and specifications, with open spaces democratically determined by population density.

Such spaces should be consistent across affordable, M.I.G. and H.I.G. developments. Any luxurious elements should be limited to finishes and other features.

Revisiting vernacular architecture

Incorporating the influences of vernacular architecture and spatial consumption, as well as mixed-use designs, is advantageous in the contemporary context. As a well-known adage dictates, "one can never forget history, lest they be condemned to repeat it". Hence, vernacular and conventional wisdom serve as valuable resources. By returning to our roots, we can distinctly identify the fundamental principles of architecture that have developed over time – encompassing light, ventilation, orientation of built mass, and materiality – all of which remain relevant today.

By designing mixed-use buildings and communities that can accommodate multiple services, we can reduce the need for separate structures for each use. This, in turn, can help to conserve resources, reduce carbon footprint of construction and transportation, and promote more sustainable and liveable communities. To limit carbon footprint, adaptive reuse through repurposing an already-built space is crucial. Additionally, developing multi-purpose spaces during the design stage can ensure 100% utilisation and result in building less for more.

The writer is Co-founder & Director, Edifice Consultants.

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Prospective homebuyers can visit the Mantri Serenity Experience Centre to explore the various apartment configurations, amenities, and overall ambience of the property. Call 1800 121 0000. Visit www.mantri.in/serenity

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BG-BGE

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING

Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023
Telephone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com**
No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-8/TND/2023-24/2321 Date: 02.02.2024

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Short-term Tenders are invited from eligible Class-II & above contractors registered in KPWD in Two Tender document system in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform for the following work. **(1) Construction of School of Nursing building in District Hospital at Ballari (Balance work).** Approximate Estimate cost: **Rs. 284.32 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4.27 lakhs.** Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **05 Months. Calendar of Events: (1)** Last date for receipt of tenders: **19.02.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **20.02.2024 at 16.00 hrs.** The tender details can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform (**www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**). Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through news papers and further changes will be updated on kpp portal only.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, RR Nagar Zone, BBMP Office Building, CA No.3, 1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Upanagara, Bengaluru-560 060.

No: EE/KEN/TEND/18/2023-24 **Date: 02.02.2024**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal)

Tenders are invited by The Executive Engineer (Kengeri Division), RR Nagar Zone, for the services mentioned below under the KPPP through two cover system from the registered agencies with I.T, E.S.I, P.F, Labour Department and other statutory authority of Government of Karnataka Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Service	Apprx. value of work service (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Providing Service Outsourcing Labours for Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply of 110 Villages in Ward No.130 and Ward No.198.	75.37	1,51,000/-

Period of Service 11 Months

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded through KPP **Portal from 06.02.2024, 4.00 p.m. onwards. (2)** Pre-bid meeting: **12.02.2024 at 3.00 p.m.** at Office of the Chief Engineer, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone, Bengaluru - 560 098. **(3)** Last date & time for receipt of Tenders: **14.02.2024 upto 4:00 pm. (4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **15.02.2024 at 4:00 pm**. **(5)** Validity of Tenders: 3 months after the deadline date for Tender submission (6) Bid Validity: 90 days.

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit e-Procurement portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Kengeri Division, BBMP

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Planning (South) Division, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru.

No: EEP (S)/E-Procu/20/2023-24 **Date: 02-02-2024**

Notice of Postponement of Tender

Subject: Regarding postponement of the dates of publication of tenders called through e-procurement of this office.
Reference: This office tender postponement publication no: EEP (S)/E-Procu/20/2023-24 Date: 25-01-2024
As the tender work called through e-procurement from this office with No: EE/PS/E-Pro/PR/20/23-24 on 25.01.2024 cannot be uploaded online due to technical reasons, the dates called for in the tender notice have been postponed as follows.

Sl. No.	Details	Earlier published date	Postponed date
1	Last date and time to receive tender	09.02.2024 up to 4.00 pm	15.02.2024 at 4.00 pm
2	Date and time of opening of technical bid	12.02.2024 at 4.30 pm	17.02.2024 up to 4.30 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Planning (South), BBMP.

INDUSIND BANK LTD.
 # 1-10-72, 3rd floor, Ashoka Janardhana Chambers, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016, Ph: (040) 40916229

APPENDIX IV-A [SEE PROVISO TO RULE 8(6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described secured asset is mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken on **11.08.2023** by the Authorised Officer of M/s. IndusInd Bank Ltd. (the secured creditor). The Property will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 27/02/2024** for recovery of **Rs.2,07,13,302/- (Rupees Two Crore Seven Lakh Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred TwoOnly) as on 30.11.2023** with further interest at the contractual rate and costs, charges and expenses due to IndusInd Bank Ltd., from the **borrower M/s. Aero Star Global Logistics India Pvt. Ltd.,and guarantors Gopala Krishnan Nair Sundaresan, Mrs. Ramya B., Mr. Bhaskaran Nair.**

Description of Immovable properties : **Property of Mr. S Gopala Krishnan Nair and Mrs. Ramya B (Sale Deed Document No: 5371 of 2010-2011, dated 25-11-2010) :** All that piece and parcel of Residential Vacant site bearing No. 5, BBMP Katha No. 72, Municipal No. 9, ward No. 149, measuring east to west 40 feet and north to south 30 feet, totally measuring 1200 sq. feet, formed in Old. Sy. No. 224, New Sy. No 224/1, which is duly converted from agriculture to non-agriculture residential purpose by the deputy commissioner, Bangalore vide his order no. ALN//(EVH)SR132/2009-10, dated 29-12-2009, situated at AmaneBellandurKhane Village, VarthurHobli, Bangalore East Taluk, presently comes under the limits of B.B.M.P and **bounded on the:** East by: Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Site No. 4, South by: Site NO. 6

Reserve Price: Rs.91,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety-One lakh only)
Earnest Money Deposit: Rs.09,10,000/- (Rupees Nine lakhs ten thousand only)

Known encumbrance, if any	NIL to the knowledge of the bank.
Claims, if any, which have been put forward against the property and any other dues known to Secured creditor and value	Not Known to the best of knowledge of the Bank.
Inspection of Property	13/02/2024 between 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.
Contact Person and Phone No : Mr. D Varadaraj (Authorized Officer) Mobile No: 9966078652 Bank officers: Mr. Jansi Rao 9886090570 & Mr. Chakradhari Shubham Mobile No: 9304376755	
Last date for submission of Bid/Bid:	26/02/2024 till 04.00 PM
Time and Venue of Bid Opening	E-Auction/Bidding through website (https://www.bankeauctions.com) 27/02/2024 from 11.00 am to 12.00 pm

For detailed terms & conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditors website i.e. **https://www.indusind.com** for detailed terms & conditions of e-auction/sale of respective property and other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the e-auction. Bidders may also visit the website **https://www.bankeauctions.com** or contact service provider **M/s. C1 India Private Limited. Bidder Support Nos.: 0124-4302020 / 21 / 22, +91 7291981124 / 1125 / 1126; email: support@bankeauctions.com, Mr. Hareesh Gowda, Contact No. +91 95945 97555 & Mr. Prabakaran, Contact No. +91 74182 81709**

This notice of 15 days is being given to all of you in compliance of Rule 8, sub rule 6 of SARFAESI Rules under the SARFAESI Act 2002

Place: Hyderabad, Date: 31/01/2024 Sd/-Authorised Officer, Indusind Bank Limited

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA ENTERPRISE)
Office of the Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathy Canal Investigation, Division, Hebbur, ph-0816-2957008 **Tumkur District-572120**

Karnataka Public Procurement Short term Tender Notification No.04/2022-23 Dated: 25.01.2024

On behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathy Canal Investigation Division, Hebburu, invites tender on Item rate basis from eligible contractors for 06 Works. For more details visit www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, H.C.I. Division, Hebbur.
DIPR/TUM/223A/KSMCA/2022-23

MSIL
Mysore Sales International Limited
PROJECT DIVISION
MSIL House, No. 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052. Ph: 080-22264021-25
No: MSIL/PRJ/305/2023-24 Date : 03.02.2024

SHORT-TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal)

Short-term Tender is invited from the interested parties for **Appointment as Consultants for preparation of estimates, Survey, Design & DPR Consultant for repair and renovation of Bengaluru Air Cargo Complex MSIL at Konena Agrahara Bengaluru belonging to Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL), Karnataka.** Interested parties are requested to contact the undersigned for further details. Visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for more details.

Sd/- General Manager (Projects), MSIL

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Central-8
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002

No: EE/PC-8/TEND/02/2023-24 **Dated: 02.02.2024**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through **GOK KPP Portal** only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, (Project-Central-8) BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Name of the Work	Approx. Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (₹. in Lakhs)
Comprehensive Development of Selected Roads by Providing White Topping under GOK Grants. Package-2	**10255.00**	**102.55**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal of Government of Karnataka from **03.02.2024**. (2) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **17.02.2024** upto **4:00** pm. (3) A Pre Tender Meeting will be held at the office of the Chief Engineer (Project Central) **09.02.2024** at **4:00** pm. (4) Technical Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer (Project Central-8) on **19.02.2024** at **10:30** pm. (5) This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP Website: **www.bbmp.gov.in.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Project Central-8

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUBHASH Chander, son of JC-414925P Nb Sub Girdhari Lal, R/a PRTC, JC Nagar, Bengaluru-560006 have changed my name to Subhash, vide affidavit dt: 02.02.2024 before Notary G.N.Venkataravanappa, B'luru

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRIYANKA D/O Kariyappa, Udaya Nagar, Kowtal, Raichur Dist-584120. Have changed my name to Priyanka Kariyappa Sworn before Notary Mahesha J.J. Vide affidavit dated 02-02-2024, Bangalore 560062. Henceforth I Shall be Called as Priyanka Kariyappa only.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXIX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-70)
O.S. No. 2588/2023
Hg 04/03/2024

BETWEEN :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007, having its head office at and Zonal office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560 068 and also having branch at M.G. Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. **...Plaintiff**
And :
Mr. Sandesh Gowda V. **...Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAYOF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant :
Mr. Sandesh Gowda V.
S/o Veeranna, Aged About 33 Years, R/at No. 15, 5th Main, 16th Cross, NN Farm, Sanjaynagar, RMV Extension II Stage, Near RMV Hospital, Bengaluru- 560 094.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 2,16,421/-** along with interest at the rate of 11.99% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXIX Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-70), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 04.03.2024 at 11:00 A.M. to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 25th day of January, 2024 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-64)
O.S. No. 6875 /2022

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390 007, having its head office at and Zonal office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560 068 and also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. **...Plaintiff**
And :
Mr. Umesh N. **...Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEFENDANT
Smt. Akshata,
W/o. Late Umesh N.
R/at No. 206, CDR Ixora, 2nd Floor, 14th Main, NRI Layout, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Kalkere, Horamavu, Bangalore- 560 043.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 5,02,331.07/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXIII Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-64), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **03/03/24** at **11:00 A.M** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **27th day of January, 2024** at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXIX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-70)
O.S. No. 2586/2023
Hg 04/03/2024

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007, having its head office at and Zonal office at 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560 068 and also having branch at M.G. Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. **...Plaintiff**
And :
Mr. P. Jagan Mohan **...Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant :
Mr. P. Jagan Mohan
S/o. Seshanna Pale, Aged About 39 Years, R/at No. 52, 3rd Main, 2nd Block, Srinivasa Nilaya, Ayyappa Nagar, KR Puram, Near Top Super Market Bengaluru- 560 036.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 12,50,686/-** along with interest at the rate of 11.99% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXIX Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-70), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **04.03.2024** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 25th day of January, 2024 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXIX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-70)
O.S. No. 2580/2023

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390 007 having its head office at and Zonal office at 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 And also having branch at M.G. Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. **...Plaintiff**
And :
Ms. Babita Sharma **...Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant
Ms. Babita Sharma
D/o Ramesh Chand Sharma, Aged about 34 years.
R/at No. 436, "Revanthi Nilaya", 29th Main, 8th Cross, EWS Colony, BTM Layout, 2nd Stage, Near Bus Stop, Bangalore-560076.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs.7,40,811.03/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the **LXIX Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-70),** in person or by a pleader, on the day of **04.03.2024** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 25th day of January 2024 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court
Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE III ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE (CCH- 25) AT BANGALORE ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 1837 OF 2021
Hg 23/02/2024

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd,
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at : "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007, and having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., No. 4/10, 1at Floor, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Road, Bangalore- 560 068 and represented by its POA holder and Collection Manager Rohith Ali M, S/o Ishrath Ali M **...PLAINTIFF**
AND :
Sri Shaik Seeman **...DEFENDANT**

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication u/o V Rule 20 CPS

To,
Sri Shaik Seeman,
Aged about 36 years, Son of Shaik Sikandar, R/at. 26, 1st Main 1st Cross, Dwarakanagar Layuot, Near Govt Hospital Hesaraghatta Main Road, Chikkabanavara, Bangalore-560 090

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of is Rs. 10,52,257/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Sevan Only) together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court (CCH- 25), in person or by a pleader on the 23.02.2024 at 11:00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined as ex- parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this **24th** day of **January, 2024.**

By the order of the court
Asst. Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Bangalore

Advocates for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES- AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALATPA,
Advocates,
No. 4 (10/2), West Park Road,
Kumara Park East,
Bangalore- 560 001

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LX ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-61) ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 1093 OF 2022

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007
And having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001 and represented by its POA holder and Collection Manager Mr. Rohith Ali M, S/o Ishrath Ali M.
Age 24 years **...PLAINTIFF**
AND :
Mr. Pradeep B **...DEFENDANT**

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publiction

To,
Defendant:
Mr. RAJ VERMA
Aged about 33 years,
Son of Ram Chandra Mahto
R/at.6th cross, Right Side, Near Kuruba Choultry, Malleshwara Nagara, Ariskere, Hassan Dist- 573103

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs.11,87,706 /- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Six Only) as on 12.02.2020 together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on the 26.02.2024 at 11:00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined as ex- parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this **23rd** day of **January, 2024.**

By the order of the court
Asst. Registrar,
City Civil Court
Bengaluru

Advocals for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES-AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALATPA,
Advocates,
No. 4 (10/2), West Park Road,
Kumara Park East,
Bangalore- 560 001

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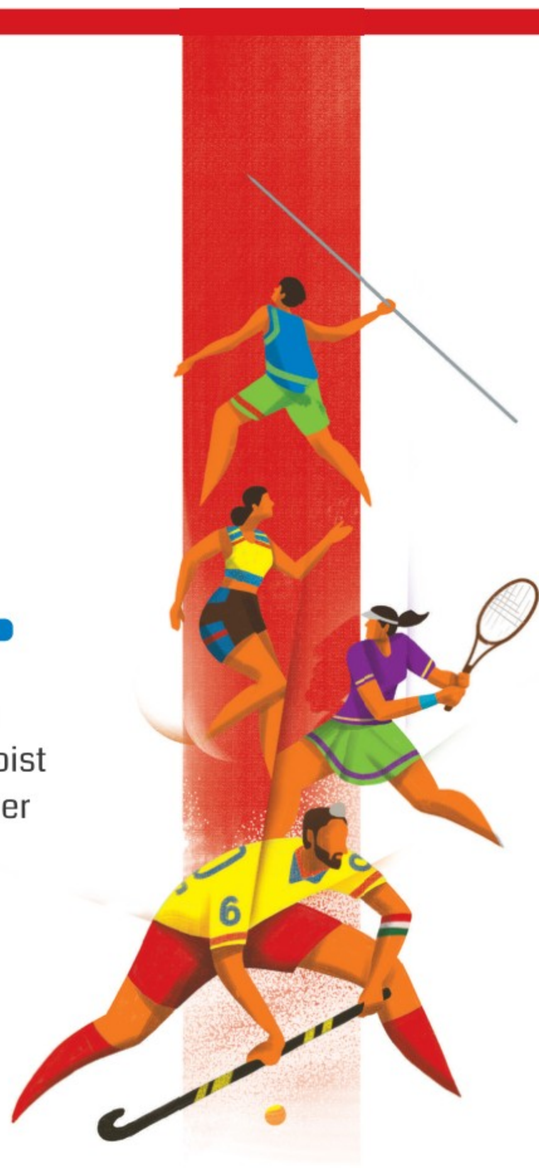
Date: February 8, 2024
Time: 6 PM onwards

Visit the link: **sstar.news/AcesLive** to watch the event live on the day.



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RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(YERAMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
(A JV Company of KPCL & BHEL)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

No.: KPCL/2023-24/PM/WORK_INDENT 1036/CALL-2 Date: 29.01.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)(Through KPP Portal Only)

RPCL invites tenders through KPP Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from the contractors/agencies that are reputed individuals/Company and having past experience for the work of **"Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning of CNC Turning Centre Lathe Machine at YTPS".** Tender Amount: **Rs. 94,70,562/-.** EMD: **Rs. 1,90,000/-.** Last Date for submission of tender: **07.02.2024 at 16:00Hrs.** Date Of opening Technical bid: **16:15Hrs. on 08.02.2024.** Date of opening of price bids of pre-Qualified tenders **after16:00Hrs. on 10.02.2024.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the **Executive Engineer (M-1), RPCL, YTPS, Yermarus-584134. Raichur District.** Mobile: **094480682893.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Department Mangaluru Division Mangaluru

Ref :-PW:DIV:MAG:TND(30E):2023-24:AE-1: Dated: 01.02.2024

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Divn. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under E-tendering in **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTTP Act Indent No: 5944 (Amount Put Tender Rs.124.48 Lakhs) (E.M.D Rs.2.00 Lakhs) **Under the Head Of Account :- Nabard RIDF - 28. Last date for reciept of above tender: 09.02.2024 upto 16.00 Hours.**
Inviting Tender for **Indent No: 7965** (Estimate Amount Rs.100.00 Lakhs) (E.M.D Rs.2.00 Lakhs) **Under the Head Of Account :3054-03-337-0-05-200 State Highway Road maintenance. Last date for reciept of above tender: 12.02.2024 upto 16.00 Hours.**
Inviting Tender for KW-4 Any Change in dates of events and value of work put to tender and EMD amount etc only can been seen from e -portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/MNG/KSMCA/1216/23-24 dt.02.02.2024 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/F-122(30)/23-24/9257-58 Date: 02.02.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following Works on **Total Turnkey Basis.**

1) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/23-24/EPR-04/CALL-3 Dated: 03.10.2023 for the work of Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of Rating 20 MVA, 66/11KV, **NGEF** make, Sl. No.2800060083, year of manufacture 2001 Lying at **66/11kV Leela Venture Sub-station**

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/F-122(32)/2023-24/9262-63 Date: 02.02.2024

2) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/23-24/EPR-11/CALL-2 Dated: 18.10.2023 for the work of Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of Rating 20 MVA, 66/11KV, **EMCO** make, Sl. No.HT1711-127097, year of manufacture 2007 Lying at 66/11kV **Electronic City Phase-2 Sec-2 (Malgudi)** Sub-station pertaining to HSR Layout TL&SS Division.

The Bids will be received through KPP Portal mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 03.02.2024.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer Ele, Tr (M), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex,Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560009. Ph./Fax : 22386686-85

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer(Project Central-2), NR Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

No. EE/PC-2/TEND/02/2023-24 **Date: 02.02.2024**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Short Term Tender Notification)
(Through GOK E-procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Project Central-2), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction Work detailed in the table below. The Tenderers may submit Tenders for the Work given in the table through e-Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The Tenderers are advised to note the Minimum Qualification Criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for Award of the Contract as per Standard Bidding Document uploaded in the KPP Portal. Tender Documents may be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka from **02-02-2024.** Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal on or before **17:30** hours on **17-02-2024** and the Opening of Tenders will be as per the KPP Portal Guidelines.
Name of the Work :**Comprehensive Development of Selected Roads by Providing White Topping Under GoK Grants (Package - 5),** Amount put totender (Rs. In Lakh) : **11024.78,** EMD (in Lakhs): **110.25,** Cost of thetender form in Rs : **As per Karnataka Public Procurement Portal,** Period of Completion : **11 Months (including Monsoon Season).**
Other Details can be seen in the Tender Document.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, (Project Central-2) BBMP, Bengaluru.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP Head Office, Ground Floor, Annex-3 building, N.R.Square, Bengaluru-02

No. DCF/TENDER/12/2023-24 **Dated : 02-02-2024**

Short Term Tender Notification
(Only Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

The Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites Works tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / FOREST / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Work Value (in Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)
1	Tree Transplantation 100 Nos of trees in BBMP area various Development projects 0.17 to 0.99 mtr girth trees.	26,00,000/-	52,000/-

Time Schedule : (1) Date of Commencement of Download of Document from e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** : From **03-02-2024** onwards. **(2)** Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in e-procurement : **07-02-2024 upto 5:00 PM. (3)** Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting : **07-02-2024 at 05:00 PM** at the following venue : Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP Head Office, Ground floor, Annex-3 building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02. **e-mail : dcfbbmp12@gmail.com (4)** Last Date and Time for uploading of tenders in e-procurement portal: **13-02-2024 upto 5:00 PM (5)** Date and Time of Online Opening of tender : **14-02-2024 5:30 PM (6)** Place of Opening of tender : Online at e-Procurement portal **(7)** Address for communication : Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP Head Office, Ground Floor, Annex-3 building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 02 e-mail : **dcfbbmp12@gmail.com**
Tender documents may be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka KPPP website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** under login for Contractors.

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGCO25521)

No.:SEE/EE/Tr/W&M/DVG/AEE-2/F-114/23-24/Cys-91 Date: 02.02.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(kppp portal mode only)

KPTCL E-Tenders are invited in the prescribed form from Super Grade Licensed Electrical Contractor for the following work in Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Davanagere on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**

1) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr (W&M)/DVG/EE/AEE-2/23-24/112/Call-3/Dated: 29.01.2024 for **Providing Additional 1x12.5 MVA, 66/11KV power transformer at 66/11 KV Sub- Station Vijapura in Chitradurga Tq, Chitradurga District.**

2) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr (W&M)/DVG/EE/AEE-2/23-24/113/Call-3/Dated: 29.01.2024 for **Providing Additional 1x8 MVA, 66/11KV power transformer at 66/11 kv Sub-Station Neeragunda Gate in Hosadurga Tq, Chitradurga District.**

Tenders will be accepted through kppp Mode Only. For further details, prospective Bidders are advised to log on to **website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** & click on to **hyperlink "e-procurement-kptcl"** to participate in e-procurement portal on or **after 03.02.2024.**

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, (Ele), Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Near Stadium, Hadadi Road, Davangere.

INDUSIND BANK LTD.
1-10-72, 3rd floor, Ashoka Janardhana Chambers, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016, Ph: (040) 40916229

E-AUCTION SALE PROCLAMATION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Sale of immovable asset under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act).

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s in particular that the under mentioned property is mortgaged / charged to the secured creditor, being IndusInd Bank Limited, the possession of under mentioned property had been taken by the Authorised Officer of the IndusInd Bank Limited under S. 13(4) of the Act will be sold by E- Auction as mentioned below for recovery of under mentioned dues and applicable interest, charges and costs etc. as detailed below.

The property described below is being sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** under the rule no. 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (hereinafter referred to as the rules) for the recovery of the dues detailed as under:

Name of Borrower : M/s. Patil Trading Co, Rep. By its Proprietor,
Co-Borrowers/Guarantors: 1) Mr. Sunil Prakash Patil,2) Mrs. Daneshwari S Patil

Total Amount Due as on 31-12-2023 : Rs. 48,10,916.00 (Rupees Forty Eight Lakhs Ten Thousand Nine Hundred SixteenOnly)

Nature of Possession	Under possession
Date & Time of Auction	29/02/2024,11:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Reserve Price	Rs.34,50,000/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only)
EMD	Rs.3,45,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Forty Five Thousand only) RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to the credit of "IndusInd Bank Ltd", Account No. 00083564604005
Bid Increment	Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)
Mode of Auction	E-AUCTON

Description of secured asset : All that piece and parcel of the apartment/Flat bearing No.401, 4th floor with a super built area of about 1366 and 341sq.ft of undivided right , title and interest in the entire property bearing No.15, Rajeshwarinagar, Laggere village Katha No.131/1, presently under Dasarahalli CMC having its present katha no.213, of Laggere main road, Laggere, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560058, measuring East to West : 50 feet, North to South 60-0 feet totally measuring 3000 square feet, along with one covered car parking.

Date of Inspection : 16/02/2024 between 11:30 AM to 01:00 PM. please contact Mr. Jansi Rao, 9886090570, Mr. Chakradhari Shubham, 930437675, Authorised Officer Mr. Varadaraj, Mob: 9966078652, vardaraj.devaraj@indusind.com.

Last Date of Submission of bids (E-auction) : 28/02/2024 up to 04:00 PM

This publication is also a Fifteen Days (15) notice to the aforementioned borrower/guarantors under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditors Website i.e, **https://www.indusindbank.com,** regarding E-Auction/sale of respective property and other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the E –Auction. Bidders may also visit the website **https://www.bankeauctions.com.**

Date: 31-01-2024, Place : Bangalore Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indusind Bank Limited

Office of the Director of PRINTING, STATIONERY & PUBLICATIONS,
R.V. College Post, 8th Mile, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 059. Ph: 080-28484515/28484518

No: DPS93PUR(D)2023-24/MECH **Date: 01.02.2024**

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement)

Online Tenders are invited for **Supply and Installation of Cutting and Other Miscellaneous Machines**. Estimated total value of tender is about **Rs. 86.65 Lakhs** & overall total EMD is **Rs. 4.47 Lakhs.** Last date for submission of Tender: **17.02.2024, 17.30 hrs.** For details please visit website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For any further clarifications the above office may be contacted.

Sd/-
Director

DIPR/CP/3362/MAA/2023-24

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
O/o The Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Mysuru zonal office, "Jalabhavan", #P-4, 10th main, 3rd cross, 3rd floor, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru- 570 009. Ph no: 0821-2545894, Email: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com

IFT no: 1341 **Dated: 22-01-2024**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
The tender for the work of "Construction of 3000KLD capacity SBR type STP and allied works at Muddabeera nahundi in T Narasipura town under 2nd stage UGD Scheme to T Narasipura town. (Lumpsum Tender – No variation)" amounting to Rs.236.29 Lakhs has been invited vide Karnataka Public Procurement Portal indent No.KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT136. Further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
KUWS & D BOARD, MYSURU.

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/981/2023-24

North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation
Civil Engineering Department, Central Office, Hubballi

No/NWKT/EE/HBL/DB(T)/ 908/2023-24 Date : 02/02/2024

Short Term Tender Notification

Item rate tenders in Two Cover System are invited through GOK KPPP Portal as per KTPP Standard Tender Documents for the following works from appropriate class of Registered Class – 1 Civil Contractors in KPWD/CPWD/MES as per the schedule given below. Eligible contractors can participate in the tender by confirming the other details which will be published on 02.02.2024 in https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in KPPP Portal. Any changes in Tender Notification will be published in KPPP Portal only, separate paper notification will not be issued.

Last date & Time for Submission of tender : **09.02.2024** at 16.30 Hrs
Name of the Work : Construction of Automated Driving test track in Existing ARTO Premises at RANEBENNUR, Notification No. : 13/2023-24(2nd Call), Amount put to tender Rs. **3,92,12,500/-,** EMD Rs. **5,88,188/-**

For further details visit https:/ /www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in for any "HELP" regarding uploading of Tender Documents, please call on help desk -+91-8046010000, +91-8022631200, +91-8068948777 of all working hours. Bidders can contact this office for further details in all working hours or Call 0836-2332383.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
NWKRTC C.E. Department, Central Office, Hubballi

INBRIEF

JD(S) complains to EC against Magadi MLA

The Janata Dal (Secular) on Friday complained to the Election Commission to cancel the Legislative Assembly membership of Magadi Congress legislator H.C. Balakrishna for "threatening the public" that the five guarantees will be withdrawn if people do not vote for the Congress. The JD(S) complained that it is a clear example of corrupting the electoral system and violation of the Representation of People Act, 1951. "The Election Commission has the power to cancel the recognition accorded to the Congress party. In this situation, both the legislator and the Congress have violated norms," said a memorandum submitted to Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Meena on Friday by JD(S) youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy. He led a delegation of party legislators.

Republic Day contingent returns from Delhi

The NCC contingent of Karnataka and Goa Directorate, which included 119 NCC cadets, has returned to Bengaluru after participating in the Republic Day Parade 2024, in New Delhi. In the month-long competitions hosted in conjunction with Republic Day celebrations, the NCC Directorate of Karnataka and Goa was placed second overall and also received individual medals in various categories. On behalf of the Karnataka & Goa Directorate, the 7 Karnataka Battalion NCC hosted a welcome home ceremony for the contingent at KSR Railway Station. Cadets were greeted by officers and staff of the directorates and their parents.

Iconic speeches of Kuvempu to be relived in Mysuru

An event is being held in Mysuru on Saturday to commemorate 50 years of the late Kannada writer Kuvempu's two iconic speeches – Samskruti Krantige Kahale Nandi (A clarion call for cultural revolution) and Vichara Krantige Ahwana (An invitation to revolution of reason) – urging people to shun ignorance and sectarianism, and embrace reason. The speeches were delivered by Kuvempu in 1944 in the Centenary Hall of Maharaja College in Mysuru. Titled *Kuvempu Kranti Kahale - 50*, it aims to look back at these speeches and examine how they resonate in the present context. Kannada critic K.V. Narayana will preside over the event. L.N. Mukund Rao will deliver the keynote address. The programme starts at 10 a.m. Venue: Centenary Hall, Maharaja College, Mysuru.

Passing-out parade of second batch of Agniveervayu

A passing-out parade was held after the successful completion of specialised training in the various sub-streams on Friday. More than 700 Agniveervayu with 42 Agniveervayu women successfully completed specialised training in the present batch. The successful Agniveervayu will now be posted to different units across the Indian Air Force. The trainees were recruited as part of the Agnipath scheme. The programme was designed to equip the trainees for future warfare.

LS polls: HC notice to EC on plea to curb use of tech-based platforms to bribe voters

Four politicians have filed petition seeking changes in law to curb corrupt practices during polls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered issue of notice to the Election Commission of India on a PIL petition, which has sought directions to the EC to formulate new guidelines and introduce measures to curb newer and innovative corrupt practices, including bribing voters through gift cards, digital payments, and similar technology-based methods during the ensuing elections to the Lok Sabha and all future elections.

A Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice P.S. Dinesh Kumar and Justice T.G. Shivashankare Gowda passed the order on the petition filed by four politicians, who had contested from various constituencies and were defeated in the elections held to the State Legislative Assembly in May last year.

The petitioners are Goutham Gowda M. of Kanakapura, Prasad K.R. of Kumbalagodu, A. Manjunath of Bidadi, and Nikhil Kumar K., son of former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. The petitioners had earlier approached the Supreme Court, which had asked them to first approach the High Court for their grievances.

It was alleged in the petition that the Congress had distributed a large number of plastic digital gift cards to gullible voters prior to polling day in at least 42 Assembly constituencies. Claiming that at least 60,000 gift cards were distributed in each of the 42 constituencies, the petitioners contended that this was one of the newer and innovative methods "experimented" with.

The MLA for Ramanagara had admitted to distribution of gift cards, the petitioners claimed.

However, it was also claimed that a large number of cards turned out to be 'fake' as many voters could not encash them.

Despite code of conduct

Pointing out that the EC, despite having Model Code of Conduct, had failed to curb new modes of bribing, the petitioners said that new guidelines and measures are required to curb them as the existing provisions of the law have not kept pace with such new practices.

The EC, the petitioners said, is required to take some immediate steps to prevent political parties from not repeating the "Karnataka model" of innovative and paperless mode for bribing voters in the Lok Sabha polls. They said the need of the hour is amendment to laws to curb "technology-induced corruption".

'Cong. will protest in Delhi on Feb. 7 against injustice to Karnataka'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday announced that the Karnataka government will stage a protest in New Delhi on February 7 against the step-motherly treatment by the BJP government in the Centre.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Shivakumar said: "Karnataka has been getting a raw deal in the Union Budget. The State has lost a revenue of about ₹62,000 crore in the last five years due to this. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, and MLCs will also participate in the protest to be held on February 7. We have written to the Centre about the venue for the protest."

Urging MLAs, MLCs, and MPs of the Opposition parties to be part of the protest to seek justice for the State, he said: "The size of the Union Budget, which was ₹24.5 lakh crore in 2018-19, doubled in 2023-24 to ₹45 lakh crore but the State hasn't benefited from it. Though the Budget size has doubled, grants for Karnataka have only gone up a little from ₹46,000 crore in 2018-19 to ₹50,000 crore in 2022-23."

"Karnataka is one of the most progressive States in the country with the second highest tax contribution to the country's exchequer... But the State hasn't been getting a fair share in the last five years. Though 27 of the 28 MPs from Karnataka are from the BJP, they have not been able to get justice for the State," he said.

"Budgetary allocations for Karnataka have come down by 40%-45% since 2018-19 increasing debt burden on the State. As per a recent survey, the allocations have been coming down by around ₹7,000 to ₹10,000 crore every year. Karnataka was getting a share of 4.71% as per the 14th Finance Commission but it has been reduced to 3.64% in the 15th Finance Commission. The State has lost ₹62,000 crore due to this reduction," he said.

'Will wear my party colours, but no need to build narrative around HDK wearing saffron'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy was spotted wearing a saffron shawl during a recent protest at Keragodu village in Mandya district.
FILE PHOTO

While stating that there was no need to build a narrative around former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy sporting a saffron shawl, Janata Dal (Secular) supremo and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda said on Friday that he would be using his own party's colours if he is invited to share the platform with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

'Cannot fight'

"The JD(S) and the BJP is working together for the Lok Sabha elections with a seat-sharing arrangements to fight against the Congress. In such a scenario, if someone puts a saffron shawl on Mr. Kumaraswamy, he cannot fight there, and there is no need to discuss much about it," Mr. Gowda told presspersons in Delhi.

The Congress had attacked Mr. Kumaraswamy for wearing the saffron shawl during a recent protest at Keragodu village in Mandya district that witnessed tension over the flag issue. KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar had said that it appeared like the JD (S) could merge with the BJP. However, Mr. Kumaraswamy later not only defended the saffron shawl, but questioned what was wrong with the colour. He had also warned the alliance partner BJP that they could not expect his support for anything illegal.

On Friday, when asked about the saffron shawl incident, Mr. Gowda said: "In normal course, he should have worn our party's shawl. Normally, he should not wear (saffron shawl in future)... But there is no need to set a narrative that the JD(S) has merged with the BJP." He further said: "What is wrong in wearing our own (green shawl) when we go together with them?"

However, the former Prime Minister made his stand clear: "When I am invited to share the platform with Mr. Modi, I will go and speak. But they will use their banner and we will use ours."

He refused to comment on Bengaluru Rural MP D.K. Suresh's comments on Thursday that a time could come when southern States could seek a separate country as tax collected in the south was going to northern States. "He is a Congress leader and may have expressed his personal opinion. I do not know the context in which he has spoken. I was not there," he said.

CM tells Ministers not to speak on controversial issues that BJP may pick up to divide electorate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The meeting assumes significance in the wake of the BJP and the JD(S) embarking on a rally in Mandya after a saffron flag was replaced by the national flag

After a State Cabinet meeting on Thursday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah convened a late night dinner meeting with his Cabinet colleagues and is believed to have warned the Ministers to refrain from making controversial statements on Ram Mandir or Hindu faith, thereby playing into the hands of the Opposition BJP to target the Congress government and polarise the electorate ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The meeting with Ministers assumed significance in the wake of the BJP and the JD(S) embarking on a rally in Mandya after a saffron flag was replaced by the national flag on a government land at Keragodu village as per norms.

In the meeting attended by the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, the latter reportedly told Ministers that the State unit of the BJP has become active after consecration of Ram Temple at Ayodhya and the party leaders have to be vigilant to win more seats in the Lok Sabha polls.

The meeting is believed to have discussed shortage of winnable candidates in some constituencies and told Ministers to expose the lies of the BJP leaders by presenting facts and growth, and comparing and contrasting developments during NDA and UPA regimes.

Apparently, some Ministers told the Chief Minister that guarantees implemented by the Congress government have not become a talking point in the public and highlighted the need to provide more publicity to them.

Rapport with MLAs

Some MLAs complained to the Chief Minister about lack of development works in their constituencies. Mr. Siddaramaiah told the Minister to develop rapport with legislators whose support was crucial in determining the outcome of parliamentary elections.

CM stresses on reading Preamble of Constitution

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Ministers G. Parameshwara, Shivaraj Tangadagi, B. Nagendra, and B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, among others, at the inauguration of Hampi Utsav in Hampi on Friday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Emphasising reading of the Preamble of the Indian Constitution in educational institutions as part of efforts to preserve and protect the Constitution, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said it is imperative to protect the Constitution to create equality, build social democracy, and protect the dignity of every individual.

He was addressing a gathering after inaugurating the three-day Hampi Utsav in the newly formed Vijayanagara district on Friday night.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the fundamental principles of 12th Century social reformer Basaveshwara's vachanas are complementary to the intent of the Constitution. The constitution as framed by B.R. Ambedkar envisages the kind of society we must create and the kind of individuals we should be, he said. "Though communal forces are attempting to disturb social harmony and trying to divide people on the basis of caste, one should not hate another human being. We have launched a month-long State-wide Constitution awareness programme to make people, particularly youth, read the Preamble of the Constitution that helps them understand what makes a good person," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Lashing out at the critics of the five guarantee schemes introduced by the Congress government, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the few vested interests were engaged in false propaganda about the guarantee schemes and now they themselves were adapting the schemes. "Our government is adapting the principles of social justice in the accumulation of wealth and its distribution. The BJP-led Central government was helping few capitalists to accumulate the country's resources, hence, we introduced the five guarantees on the basis of Universal Basic Income to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people," he said.

Accusing the Centre of providing a lesser share of returns to Karnataka in terms of GST tax, he said that though Karnataka is the second-highest tax paying State in the nation with ₹4 lakh crore in the form of taxes and duties to the Centre, in return we are getting only ₹50,000 crore from the Centre, he added.

Ministers G. Parameshwara, B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, B. Nagendra, and Shivaraj Tangadagi, KKRDB chairman Ajay Singh, and others were present.

DKS warns of action against Shivaram

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has threatened to take disciplinary action against former Minister and Congress leader B. Shivaram, who accused the Congress government of being more corrupt than the previous BJP government.

Mr. Shivaram, from Hassan, embarrassed the Congress government by accusing that corruption in Hassan district was "more than 40% commission" that prevailed during the BJP government.

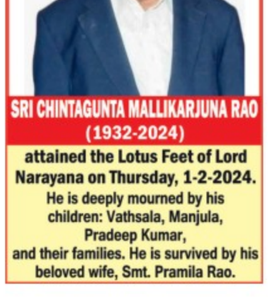
'Rampant corruption'

Mr. Shivaram claimed that he had urged the party leaders to check rampant corruption in the Hassan district administration. Rattled by the allegations, the KPCC president told reporters: "If Mr. Shivaram has any problem, let him come and discuss with us. The party will take disciplinary action against Mr. Shivaram and any other leaders who violate the party discipline and bring disrepute to the government by issuing statements to the media."

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

In Loving Memory Of



SRI CHINTAGUNTA MALLIKARJUNA RAO
(1932-2024)
attained the Lotus Feet of Lord Narayana on Thursday, 1-2-2024.
He is deeply mourned by his children: Vathsala, Manjula, Pradeep Kumar,
and their families. He is survived by his beloved wife, Smt. Pramila Rao.

DEATH

OBITUARY

Dr. Ida Lobo
13.04.1927 - 01.02.2024
(Wife of late Wilfrid Lobo)
We are deeply saddened to announce the demise of our Beloved Mother Dr. Ida Maria Helena Lobo on 1st February 2024
Funeral Service on 3rd February 2024 at 10 AM at St. Theresa's Church, Nungambakkam followed by burial at Kilpauk Cemetery at 12 Noon.
"Having lived a most remarkable life, She will live on forever as the Song in our hearts"
Remembered with love and Gratitude by her children Esther, Laura, Joe, Johnny, Raymund and their families.
Ph: 9840993598 / 9940463598

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SECOND ANNIVERSARY

I. JAIRAJ
29.11.1944 - 03.02.2022
We miss you every moment of everyday...
Nirmala, Siddharth, Bharath & your Entire Family & Friends

NIA sleuths conduct search at houses of NTK functionaries with suspected links to LTTE

In a follow-up to the 2022 Omalur arms seizure case, the searches were conducted on the premises of some cadre in Chennai, Tiruchi, Coimbatore, Sivaganga and Tenkasi. Incriminating documents and books related to LTTE, mobile phones and pen drives were seized, says the Central agency

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday carried out a series of raids across Tamil Nadu, in a follow-up to the Omalur arms seizure case.

Searches were conducted on the premises of suspects, some of whom were functionaries of the Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) in Chennai, Tiruchi, Coimbatore, Sivaganga, and Tenkasi. A laptop, seven mobile phones, eight SIM/memory cards and four pen-drives were seized.

"Incriminating documents and books related to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terror organisation and its self-styled slain supremo, Prabhakaran, were also seized," the agency said in a release.

Digging deep: NIA sleuths coming out of a house near Alandurai in Coimbatore after a search on Friday.

The Omalur case pertains to the seizure of arms, ammunition and other materials used for manufacturing weapons from two persons – M. Naveen Chakravarthy, 25, of Kitchipalayam; and J. Sanjay Prakash, 25, of Shevapet – by the Tamil Nadu police in Salem in 2022. Later, A. Kabilar, alias Kabilan, 25, who helped the duo manufacture guns, was arrested.

Three suspects

The NIA, which took over the case from the police, filed a charge sheet against the three suspects, accusing them of conspiring and associating themselves with the LTTE and creating an organisation named World Tamil Justice Court to pursue their goals.

In the charge sheet, the agency said the accused had planned to attack people who worked in quarries, crushers, and Tasmac outlets using illegal firearms, weapons, and explosives. They had decided to launch the strike on May 18, 2022, to pay homage to those who had died in the Sri Lankan civil war.

One of the NTK functionaries whose house was searched was YouTuber 'Saattai' Duraimurugan. NIA officials went to his residence at Shanmuga Nagar in Tiruchi around 6.30 a.m. Since he was reportedly not at home then, his family members were questioned, police sources said.

Searches in Coimbatore

In Coimbatore district, NIA sleuths searched the houses of M. Ranjith Kumar, at R.G. Nagar near Alandurai, and of S. Murugan at Saraswathi Nagar near Kalapatti.

Officials reportedly confiscated electronic gadgets of the two. Mr. Kumar was an active member of the NTK in 2020-21 and Murugan is a supporter of the party.

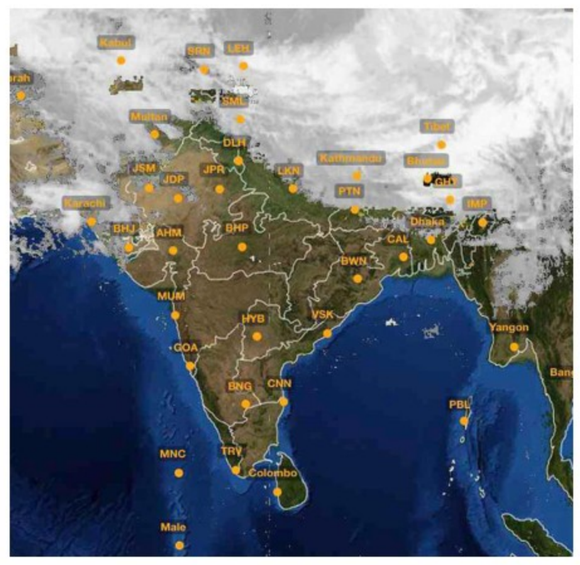
They were allegedly in touch with persons involved in the Omalur arms case, a source said.

Sources in the NIA said the searches were based on evidence that certain NTK office-bearers were in touch with LTTE members or fund-raisers of the diaspora.

In Tenkasi, a three-member NIA team searched the residence and the studio of NTK State coordinator Isai Mathivanan at Viswanathaperi. He was asked to appear before the agency in Chennai on February 7 for another round of questioning.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/hailstorm/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, west Uttar Pradesh and west Madhya Pradesh. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.2	26.0	17.8	Kozhikode	—	35.5	24.2
Ahmedabad	—	31.3	16.0	Kurnool	—	35.4	22.2
Aizawl	0.4	21.9	14.1	Lucknow	0.3	24.0	10.0
Allahabad	—	26.3	13.4	Madurai	—	35.2	24.5
Bengaluru	—	31.3	20.1	Mangaluru	—	31.0	21.2
Bhopal	—	26.9	14.6	Mumbai	—	31.6	18.9
Bhubaneswar	—	30.8	20.3	Mysuru	—	32.0	18.0
Chandigarh	—	20.1	7.0	New Delhi	0.6	18.5	7.0
Chennai	—	31.8	25.2	Patna	—	26.3	12.2
Coimbatore	—	33.9	22.0	Port Blair	—	31.0	25.3
Dehradun	14	19.7	6.4	Puducherry	0.8	31.4	24.9
Gangtok	1	8.4	6.0	Pune	—	30.0	14.8
Goa	—	30.8	19.0	Raipur	—	29.0	20.1
Guwahati	—	25.4	11.2	Ranchi	5	24.3	12.4
Hubballi	—	32.0	17.0	Shillong	—	16.5	6.5
Hyderabad	—	32.4	20.0	Shimla	15	7.6	-0.6
Imphal	5	22.7	9.5	Srinagar	0.4	6.0	-0.3
Jaipur	—	24.8	13.3	Thiruvananthapuram	0.2	33.2	24.4
Kochi	—	31.4	25.2	Tiruchi	—	34.3	24.6
Kohima	1	14.0	3.2	Vijayawada	—	32.6	22.6
Kolkata	0.8	27.7	19.3	Visakhapatnam	—	29.4	22.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.27	.20	.58	...208	...158	
Bengaluru	.10	.17	.25	...129	...162	
Chennai	.11	.20	.69	34	41	
Delhi	.10	162	.76	...222	...206	
Hyderabad	.20	.44	.26	83	...113	
Kolkata	.12	.21	.33	...163	...143	
Lucknow	...9	.31	.71	...137	...135	
Mumbai	...7	122	...6	57	83	
Pune	117	171	110	90	95	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.45	...7	60	90	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hapur, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 471 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Top court dismisses ED plea to cancel bail of Bineesh Kodiyeri

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a plea by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to cancel the bail granted to Bineesh Kodiyeri, son of late CPI(M) leader Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, in a narcotics-related money laundering case.

He was arrested by the ED on October 29, 2020, and was granted bail by the Karnataka High Court in October 2021.

The Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai remarked that Mr. Bineesh did not face any charges of misusing his freedom while he was out on bail.

The case was reportedly registered following his arrest in a drug case registered by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Bengaluru. Later, he was arrested by the ED, Bengaluru, on a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED, in its petition before the top court, said the details of the case lead to a deep-rooted organised drug trafficking network in Bengaluru city, which involves highly influential Indian and foreign nationals.

Sharmila takes special status fight to Delhi, criticises Modi

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Y.S. Sharmila has taken the fight for Special Category Status (SCS) and other key projects promised in the Andhra Pradesh State Reorganisation Act, 2014, to the national capital.

On Friday, Ms. Sharmila led a protest by leaders and workers at the A.P. Bhavan in Delhi. The protesters held placards and raised slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for denying SCS to Andhra Pradesh and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for failing to question the BJP government at the Centre.

"Mr. Modi had said he would grant SCS to the State for 10 years and fulfil all promises made in the Reorganisation Act. He had said he would transform Seemandhra into Swarnandhra. What has happened to his promises?" she questioned.

Earlier, she met INDIA bloc leaders such as NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, DMK MP Tiruchi N. Siva, and CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury.

Kerala House passes resolution against Centre's 'trespasses'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Assembly on Friday passed a resolution criticising the Union government for allegedly trespassing on the fiscal and jurisdictional powers of the State by voice vote and without debate. The Congress-led United Democratic Front's (UDF) boycott of the day's business precluded the Opposition from debating the motion.

Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal tabled the resolution. He said the Centre had systematically reduced the States' share of national revenue. It allegedly ignored that States bore most of the capital expenditure for infrastructure development and underwrote most social welfare programmes.

The resolution said the 15th Finance Commission had recalibrated the devolution of taxes to deny provincial governments their legitimate share.

The motion termed the Centre's actions detrimental to the spirit of cooperative federalism. Mr Balagopal said the Centre's actions were tantamount to trespasses on the exclusive jurisdictional power of provincial governments.

The resolution demanded that the Centre abandon its stance that States were subaltern entities.

Marine world

Learning time: Students visit an exhibition organised by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Kochi to mark its 77th Foundation Day on Friday. THULASI KAKKAT

Release final inquiry report on custodial torture, People's Watch tells Tamil Nadu govt.

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI

Human rights NGO People's Watch on Friday urged the Tamil Nadu government to come out with the final report on the inquiry into the Ambasamudram custodial torture. A group of men was tortured in custody by a police team, led by the then Ambasamudram Assistant Superintendent of Police, Balveer Singh.

Addressing mediapersons in Madurai, People's Watch executive director Henri Tiphagne said the mother of one of the victims got a copy of the interim inquiry report, pursuant to the direction of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court. IAS Officer P. Amudha, who had conducted an inquiry, submitted the interim report to the Chief Secretary in April 2023.

Mr. Tiphagne said the State should come out with the final report and other reports. He alleged the CB-CID had added the names of SC police personnel and removed those who did not belong to the SC to avoid invoking the SC and the ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. He said Mr. Balveer Singh should be dismissed from service.

In the interim report, the inquiry officer recommended a full-fledged investigation to unearth the truth about the incidents of assault allegedly done by Mr. Balveer Singh and other police personnel.

Revanth invokes legacy of valiant Adivasi fighters, sounds poll bugle for LS election

P Sridhar
ADILABAD

Invoking the legacy of valiant Adivasi fighters Kumram Bheem and Ramji Gond, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has vowed to strive for the all-round development of the tribal heartland of Adilabad district, the birthplace of a galaxy of legendary Adivasi fighters.

The Indiramma Rajyam (new Congress government) will spare no effort to ensure the socio-economic development of tribes in Adilabad district, he asserted, accusing the previous BRS government of showing callous apathy towards the development of Adilabad district in its nearly 10-year rule.

Revanth Reddy

Mr. Revanth Reddy on Friday virtually sounded the poll bugle for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections at a public meeting held in Indervelli mandal headquarters of Adilabad district.

Earlier, Mr. Reddy paid homage to the Adivasis who died in the infamous Indervelli police firing on April 20, 1981, at the Martyrs' Memorial Column in Indervelli.

He also laid the foundation stone for the development of 'Smruti Vanam' at the Martyrs' column in line with a promise made by him in the capacity of the TPCC president at the 'Dalita Girijana Dandora' meeting held in Indervelli on August 9, 2021.

Alleging that the erstwhile BRS government neglected the family members of the Indervelli victims, he said the Indiramma Rajyam took up distribution of house site pattas and Indiramma house sanction letters to them as a mark of respect to the Adivasi victims.

On the criticism of the brutal killing of Adivasis in the police firing in Indervelli during the then Congress rule in the undivided Andhra Pradesh in 1981, he said: "Apologies for the past blunders have already been tendered. Ms. Sonia Gandhi has granted Statehood to Telangana with a view to undo the historical mistakes committed during the regime of Seemandhra rulers in the united Andhra Pradesh."

The Indiramma rajyam will now take up the responsibility of the welfare of the family members of those who died at Indervelli. Economic aid will be extended to them under the TRICOR scheme, he said.

Radio-collared lone elephant triggers panic among residents in Wayanad

The Hindu Bureau
KALPETTA

A radio-collared wild elephant triggered panic among the residents in the Mananthavady municipality and the Edavaka grama panchayat of Kerala on Friday. It was tranquillised and captured in the evening.

Mananthavady town remained on tenterhooks for a whole day after the animal took refuge inside a plantain farm near the town. The animal was first sighted by a group of dairy farmers at Payodu in Edavaka around 6 a.m. on Friday. Later, it reached Mananthavady town after crossing the Kabani river around 7.30 a.m.

Jumbo menace: The radio-collared elephant which triggered panic in Mananthavady area of Wayanad on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It was positioned in a marshy area near the Thazheyangadi for hours after moving through the Mananthavady taluk office compound. Later, it moved to a plantain farm nearby. The Wayanad Subcollector and Divisional Officer Vishal Sagar Bharath on Friday morning clamped Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC) on divisions 24, 25, 26, and 27 in Mananthavady Municipality and 4,5, and 7 wards of the Edavaka panchayat for the smooth operation.

The Chief Wildlife Warden also issued an order to capture the animal if the attempts failed to drive it away to the forest. The attempt to drive the animal away to the forest with the support of Kumki (trained) elephants was risky as undertaking such an operation in a thickly populated human habitat was difficult, a senior forest officer said.

Finally, the forest officers decided to capture the animal after tranquillising it. A team of veterinary experts shot the first tranquilliser dart at 5.30 p.m. followed by another shot at 6.18. p.m.

More than 100 Forest Department staff took part in the operation.

Population priorities

No survey can substitute the Census, yet to be conducted for this decade

In what was an intriguing statement in her Interim Budget speech, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that a high-powered committee will be constituted to consider the challenges arising from "fast population growth and demographic changes". With the Union government repeatedly postponing the decennial Census – it has not been conducted for the first time in a decade since 1881 – there is no direct evidence to support this statement. It is evident that India is now the most populous country, but the Sample Registration System statistical report in 2020 and the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21) have shown that the total fertility rate (TFR) in India has fallen to 2 overall, with only a few States – Bihar (2.98), Meghalaya (2.91), Uttar Pradesh (2.35), Jharkhand (2.26) and Manipur (2.17) – having a TFR above 2.1. Clearly, the high population growth of the kind seen in the 20th century has been largely arrested – the TFR fell from 5.7 in 1950 to 2 in 2020, albeit differentially across regions. The population share of the southern States, reduced to 21% in 2011 from 26% in 1951, largely a consequence of a rapid reduction in TFR due to better socio-economic outcomes and education, and despite higher migration to these States. While the surveys mentioned are robust and necessary, they are no substitute for the comprehensive Census; the continued delay in its implementation reflects poorly on the Union Home Ministry that is motivated by other priorities rather than executing a vital programme of Indian governance.

The demographic shift in India and rising life expectancy have resulted in challenges and opportunities. The much touted demographic dividend – the relatively high proportion of the working age population in the developing world – is meaningful only if there are sufficient jobs and if they enjoy some degree of social security that will help them when they age. With high unemployment and the creation of non-farm jobs, which will increase productivity and cater to skilled employment, relatively slack in the last few years, there is the possibility of the country squandering this dividend. The "high-powered" committee will be performing a crucial role if it engages meaningfully in addressing questions related to jobs and social security and the challenges citizens face due to rapid urbanisation and mechanisation of work. However, if the committee focuses on the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's pet bogies of looking at population issues through the lens of religion and immigration, it will only distract governance from making use of the fast eroding democratic dividend in the country.

Two states

Britain has the historical responsibility to recognise a Palestine state

British Foreign Secretary David Cameron's remarks that the United Kingdom is considering recognising the Palestine state signals a change in the thinking of at least a section of the British government towards the Palestine question after the Israel-Hamas war of October 7. The comment triggered criticism within Conservative Party circles, with Downing Street stating later that the British government's policy towards the issue had not changed. Yet, the debate, which included reports in the American media that the State Department is reviewing options for possible recognition of the Palestine state, suggests that the Palestine question is back at the centre of the political parleys of the major powers. Before October 7, Israel, its Arab partners and western allies thought they could ignore the Palestine question and go ahead building a new West Asia. Hamas attacks and the subsequent Israeli invasion of Gaza show that finding a solution to the Palestine question is an imperative for peace and stability in a strife-stricken West Asia. And, one of the globally recognised and practical pathways to peace is a two-state solution – a viable, independent, sovereign Palestine state created with international recognition.

Britain has a historical responsibility to push for a solution. The British government was the first major power that recognised the Zionists' claim to the land of Ottoman Palestine. In 1917, during the First World War, the British government issued the Balfour Declaration, supporting the creation of "a homeland" for the Jewish people "in Palestine". The declaration gave a major boost to the Zionist movement, promoting Jewish migration from Europe and the building of settlement communities in historical Palestine (Ottoman and British), culminating in the creation of Israel in 1948. At least from the Oslo process of the early 1990s, there were multiple diplomatic attempts in finding a mutually acceptable two-state solution, but which were futile as Palestine remained under occupation. Today, there are roughly 7,00,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and East Jerusalem; and Gaza is being destroyed by Israel. Israeli leaders, including Benjamin Netanyahu, have repeatedly rejected the two-state solution, while the far-right settlers are pushing for the control of the whole of Palestinian territories. This is an unsustainable scenario, producing cycles of violence and instability. The two-state proposal is already on its deathbed, given the mushrooming of settlements, growing violence, and the rise of far-right extremists in Israel and Islamist militants in Palestinian territories. If the British government realises its historical responsibility, does a reality check of its current policy and becomes ready to offer a political horizon to the Palestinians, it would be a welcome step.

Exposing India's financial markets to the vultures

Yılmaz Akyüz

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In September 2023, J.P. Morgan unveiled its plan to include Indian local currency government bonds (LCGBs) in its Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets (GBI-EM) Global index suite, set to become effective from June 2024. This announcement heightened expectations across the Indian financial landscape, prompting anticipation from other influential index providers such as Bloomberg-Barclays and FTSE Russell. About four months later, on January 8, 2024, Bloomberg Index Services mirrored J.P. Morgan's move by proposing the addition of India's "fully accessible route (FAR)" bonds to the Bloomberg Emerging Market Local Currency Index, set to take effect in September 2024. The spotlight now turns to FTSE Russell, which, in the wake of J.P. Morgan's revelation, declared India's retention on its watchlist for a potential upgrade, emphasising the call for reforms in the government bond market anticipated by global investors.

A process that began in 2019

India commenced the process of incorporating its government bonds into global indices in 2019. As a part of this initiative, by 2020, a segment of government bonds became officially accessible to foreign investors without constraints, thanks to the introduction of the FAR. Despite encountering delays linked to the government's stance on capital gains taxes and local settlement, the fundamental policy remained unaltered. While negotiations are expected to continue, the recent moves by J.P. Morgan and Bloomberg indicate a potential inclusion of the Indian LC government and corporate bonds in more benchmark indices.

In October 2022, a report by the Inter-Departmental Group (IDG) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) detailed efforts to internationalise the rupee, particularly by integrating Indian LCGBs into global indices. The document outlines various benefits, including diminishing dependence of public finance on domestic institutions, thanks to access to large international resources and a greater stability of funds tracking indices compared to other portfolio inflows. While recognising potential risks such as heightened sensitivity of domestic monetary and financial conditions and policies to external factors, the report asserts that the perceived benefits outweigh the risks.

Several observers have also pointed out that opening local bond markets would facilitate the financing of current account and fiscal deficits by engaging institutional investors with long-term investment horizons. Furthermore, it is argued that the cost of public borrowing would decline as the influx of funds into LCGBs lowers domestic interest rates. It is also expected that these funds would relieve the balance sheets of local financial institutions holding LCGBs, thereby increasing lending and private investment.

A key benefit of opening local bond markets to foreign investors emphasised by the mainstream, relates to the so-called "original sin" problem – that is, the inability of emerging economies to borrow internationally in their own currencies. Unlike local currency debt, external debt denominated in reserve currencies exposes debtors to the exchange rate risk. In times of sharp currency declines, this exposure could result in widespread private insolvencies and large public deficits – as seen in various instances of crisis in Asia, Latin America and elsewhere.

By opening bond markets and borrowing in local currency, the exchange rate risk is passed onto international lenders. However, this does not come free. It needs to be compensated. Furthermore, since these bonds are generally subject to domestic jurisdiction, lenders also face an additional default risk. This also needs to be compensated.

> There is a serious underestimation of the risks involved in the internationalisation of bond markets and currencies of emerging economies

Thus, local currency bonds need to offer higher returns than forex bonds issued under foreign jurisdiction – in higher interest rates and/or capital gains. Indeed, even when large international investment in local bonds of emerging economies made after the global crisis in 2008 helped reduce local interest rates, the bond index in local currency terms outperformed the index in U.S. dollars, thanks to large capital gains from currency appreciations.

Loss of autonomy, greater risks

The internationalisation of bond markets in emerging economies also entails a significant loss of autonomy in controlling long-term rates and exposes them to greater interest rate risks. When global risk appetite and liquidity conditions deteriorate, and access to international capital markets is impaired, domestic bond markets too can get crippled due to adverse spillovers. This was seen after the Lehman collapse in September 2008 and when the US Federal Reserve revealed its intention to start reducing its bond purchases in May 2013. Again, after the recent normalisation of monetary policy in the U.S., local bond rates in emerging economies also shot up and continued moving with shifts in investors' assessment of the possible course of policy stance of the Federal Reserve.

There is a misconception among proponents that foreign portfolio inflows into local currency bond markets (LCBM) provide stable and long-term funding. Unlike sovereign bonds of main reserve-currency countries such as the U.S. Treasuries, local currency sovereign debt of emerging economies is not held by central banks as international reserves, but fickle investors, primarily money managers from advanced economies, holding liabilities in their home currencies. As the adage suggests, everyone is a long-term investor until they recognise the impending end. When apprehensions emerge regarding short-term capital losses, be it due to rising interest rates, local currency depreciation, or a combination of both, stability tends to dissipate swiftly.

With the move to floating and increased exchange rate volatility, local currency bond inflows to emerging economies have become increasingly volatile because of the exchange rate risk borne by investors. There are significant variations over time in the share of foreigners in local bond markets and several instances of sudden stops and exits. In Malaysia, during 2014-15, the rapid exit of investors from local currency assets, including bonds, resulted in large reserve losses and sharp declines in the ringgit, pushing it to below the levels seen during the Asian crisis. In Türkiye, where macroeconomic imbalances were much more serious, foreigners totally left the bond market after Spring 2018, and reserve losses and currency declines were aggravated as unhedged local forex debtors joined in to avoid exchange rate losses.

In times of market distress, external debt in local currency plays a greater role in the drain of reserves and currency declines than forex debt because of investors' exchange rate risk. Indeed, evidence shows that the volatility spillover for local currency bond funds is significantly larger than that for reserve-currency bond funds.

As per the October 2022 report from the IDG of the RBI, the opening of the LCBM to foreign investors and the inclusion of Indian LCGBs in global bond indices represent just one facet of the broader effort to internationalise the Indian rupee. Another crucial element involves permitting banking services in the rupee INR outside the country. The case of settling trade with Russia in the Indian rupee for crude oil resulted in an accumulation of the rupee in Russian banks.

Additionally, as reported by Bloomberg, the RBI has granted authorisation to 17 banks to settle trade in the Indian rupee across 18 countries and establish 65 offshore deposit accounts. This effectively creates an offshore INR market and introduces new avenues for speculation and potential instability, in addition to opening the LCBM to foreign investors.

The Malaysia and Türkiye experiences

Malaysia's experience during the 1997 Asian crisis serves as a notable example. Many of the woes of the Malaysian economy during that period were due to the offshore ringgit market in Singapore. As market confidence waned alongside the broader regional downturn, currency traders in the offshore market engaged in speculative activities in anticipation of a substantial devaluation. Offshore ringgit interest rates surged, exerting upward pressure on domestic interest rates, deepening downturn, exacerbating outflows of ringgit funds and compounding banks' liquidity challenges and overall financial distress. The Malaysian authorities could only regain control after effectively closing the offshore ringgit market in September 1998 through the implementation of capital controls. Again, more recently in Türkiye in 2022, the offshore lira market in London became a major source of speculation against the Turkish currency, and the government took measures to curb it, including restrictions on bank lending to firms trading liras offshore.

As Y.V. Reddy, a former Governor of the RBI, writes in his article for The India Forum (June 2023), experience indicates that "currency internationalisation cannot be decided in one day and pursued the next. It comes about after a long evolutionary process, when all the building blocks are in place". He also points out that the Indian rupee is yet to be regarded as an international currency and its internalisation is "likely to be more an outcome of sustained development of the financial system and improved economic performance".

To sum up, the internationalisation of bond markets and currencies of emerging economies is often presented as a recipe for overcoming the consequences of the original sin, enhancing the resilience to external shocks and improving the volume and allocation of investment. This is also encouraged by international investors and financial media which see large profit opportunities in unhindered access to markets of these economies, as is the case with India now. However, the risks involved are seriously underestimated. Given the inherently unstable international financial markets, a more likely outcome of such a step would be increased exchange rate instability and boom-bust cycles in capital flows. After several episodes of crisis in emerging economies, we should all know by now that when policies falter in managing financial integration, there is no limit to the damage that international finance can inflict on an economy.

A rising tide lifts all boats

Suneeta Reddy

is the Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Group

In the life cycle of evolution and all of history, there are moments of transformation. India has seen a decade of transformation, from being under-developed to developing to now becoming the fastest growing economy in the world. India is an economic bright spot, growing consistently at 7%, while other world economies are growing at 2.5%.

This dramatic acceleration of pace has translated to a meaningful present and a promising future. India's space programme has won the admiration of the world. The country has also balanced the fine line between renewable and non-renewable energy more skilfully than any other nation, and is ahead in terms of targets.

It is this buoyancy of metrics and of spirit that was evident in the Interim Budget as well. The Budget reflected the aspirations of a new India by laying out the immense opportunity ahead of us.

Preventive health checks are needed

No country can afford it if its citizens fall ill. That is why healthy living and preventive health are very important. The initiative in the Interim Budget to promote the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination among young girls, to prevent cervical cancer, is an excellent step – something that we have sand-boxed at Aragonda in Andhra Pradesh – my father's village. We can take similar steps for several types of cancers and all non-communicable diseases, and significantly reduce India's disease burden. We urge the government to consider incentivising individuals to undertake preventive health checks.

> The Interim Budget has captured a decade of transformation and the opportunities ahead, in health, tourism and research

India has made remarkable strides in health indicators over the last four decades, with the drop in infant mortality and maternal mortality. Maternal and child health care receives a comprehensive focus in the Budget, and rightfully so. If mother and child are well, women's participation in the workforce will increase even more than it has.

Life expectancy has increased from 53 years to 70 years in the last four decades. This has been achieved with less than 2% budgetary allocation for health over the years – if this can be increased to 5%, remarkable strides can be made in achieving better population health outcomes.

The foundation for an innovation revolution

In highlighting 'innovation' as a key pillar of development in today's era, the government has decided to set aside a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore with 50-year interest free loans to provide long-term financing and refinancing to the private sector to invest in research and technology. Integration of technology has the potential to create a significant impact at scale across various domains. In health care, deeper tech collaborations will help us touch more lives and boost access to quality care, overcoming limitations such as the skewed doctor-patient ratio and even reducing health-care costs significantly.

Medical value travel

While the Interim Budget touched upon the impact of tourism flowing from religious and iconic places and has made provision for States to promote this in a big way, there is another facet of tourism that is steadily attracting more tourists and becoming a tangible reason to travel, namely health care or 'medical value travel'. We have seen the landscape being transformed in the past decade with 'Heal in India' touching new heights. India's superior talent and global standards of clinical outcomes have made India a lucrative health-care destination for the world.

Further, enhancing connectivity through new corridors with the railways along with more airports and air routes has the potential to help Indians in getting much easier access to quality health care.

Perhaps even more important than what the Budget said, were the hidden figures – private expenditure and its rise, an increase in consumption, and the underlying core theme that the private sector has risen beyond all expectations to play a meaningful role in not just the economy but in how we will live our lives. And if all of us continue to work together, India will truly be limitless.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A flip through

The Interim Budget leaves the poor in the lurch. Proposals such as a focus on the railways, doubling the number of airports, reducing corporate tax, and no changes in income-tax slab make it a budget with the haves in mind. The 'slogan-rich' document hardly means anything. The benefits of reform and performance have not percolated to the poor.

A.G. Rajmohan,
Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

There may be fiscal prudence but a pressing issue such as rising inequality has been overlooked. The government's confidence in electoral success seems to overshadow targeted policies. Addressing inequality and revitalising growth should be prioritised for inclusive economic development.

Shahim Maindala,
Bantwal, Mangaluru

We only got an exercise in jugglery with rhetoric and statistics. The Interim Budget did not spell out how it was proposed to exploit, optimally, the strength of the nation's demographic dividend. There was no road map to arrest record and soaring unemployment. It is a pro-corporate Budget.

P.K. Sharma,
Barnala, Punjab

India can never realise its growth story unless there is a planned approach to ensure job creation at a rapid pace. One cannot take solace in the fact that sectors like IT and start-ups can satiate the hunger for employment for millions.

Madhusree Guha,
Kolkata

Although closed to vehicular traffic, the Indo-Myanmar Friendship Bridge across the Tiau river connecting Mizoram's Zokhawthar and Myanmar's Khawmawi is vital for local trade. People on both sides of the border are interdependent for day-to-day existence. RAHUL KARMAKAR

Along the border, living in limbo

With Myanmar in the grip of violence, its citizens have been fleeing to India and seeking shelter in Mizoram or Manipur. But they now face an uncertain future as the Indian government has decided to fence the 1,643 km-long India-Myanmar border and end the Free Movement Regime. **Rahul Karmakar** reports on the refugees, who share the same culture and roots as the Mizos, and their worries about the civil war and India's stand

Soon after the Tatmadaw, or Myanmar's military, seized power in a coup d'etat in February 2021 by displacing the National League for Democracy (NLD)-led government, Sumi, 18, fled the country. She crossed the border into India and finally secured a job in Treasury Square, the administrative hub of Aizawl, Mizoram's capital.

Sumi was not too worried about leaving her home in Tedim, the second largest town in Myanmar's Chin State, for Aizawl, covering 255 kilometres over five days by public transport. "She knew she would be among her own people in this foreign land that is much safer and more peaceful than ours," says Margaret Ngaihi, Sumi's family acquaintance.

Sumi became Margaret's apprentice. Margaret, too, had left Tedim about 40 years ago to work at the house of L.R. Sailo, a former director of Mizoram's Information and Public Relations Department at Treasury Square. Margaret says Sumi, from the Chin community, did not take long to settle down at the house of Sailo, a Mizo.

Margaret had left Tedim under similar circumstances in the 1980s. Myanmar, then called Burma, was under the military dictatorship of Ne Win. The Free Movement Regime (FMR) which promotes local trade and allows residents along the 1,643 km-long India-Myanmar border to move up to 16 km into each other's territory without travel documents, was not in place then; the agreement between India and Myanmar was implemented only in 2018. She married a Mizo and they had two sons.

"The Chins and Mizos belong to the same ethnic stock. They were inhabiting Zogam (the land of the Zo people) for ages before the British divided our homeland in the 1800s. Marriages and other social interactions between people on either side of the international border are quite common in these parts. It is also not unusual for children in Myanmar to study in Mizoram," says Sailo. Zogam comprises present-day Mizoram, the Chin State of Myanmar, and areas beyond.

Margaret has occasionally visited her relatives in Tedim. "The civil war has been forcing our people to hunt for jobs abroad. The younger lot in Myanmar prefer Malaysia, which is where Sumi lives now, but we cannot think of a better place than Mizoram, the land of our own people," Margaret says. Mizoram currently shelters about 35,000 people displaced from Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Manipur.

She is not aware of the geopolitics in the region, specifically about Manipur's insistence on fencing the India-Myanmar border to block the entry of refuge-seekers from the civil war-torn country. In January, Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the Centre would fence the entire border to restrict free movement into India. But discussions in the neighbourhood on the fencing have made her understand that it might not be easy for her people to travel across the border as easily as she and Sumi did, four decades apart.

> The people of Mizoram are treating us well but we cannot live at the mercy of people in a different country forever
>
> **TUMNEITHANGA**
> Member of a committee of refugees in Zokhawthar

In January, Sangthankima, 63, a social worker who runs Mizoram's largest orphanage, Thutak Nunpuitute Team, was awarded the Padma Shri by the Indian government. While he is happy about the recognition, he is now worried. He faces the prospect of losing easy access to the orphanage and rehabilitation centre run by his charitable organisation at Tahan, in the Sagaing Division of Myanmar. The centre at Tahan houses about 100 orphans and is the smallest of his five centres. The other centres are in Champhai, Kolasib, Aizawl, and Lunglei – all in Mizoram.

Waiting for calm

Not everyone eyes Mizoram for a living. Unlike Margaret and Sumi, Julali, who is her late 20s, was working as a nurse at a 200-bed government-run hospital in Falam, the former headquarters of Myanmar's Chin State. She joined the Civil Disobedience Movement after the military coup in 2021. She was forced to quit her job and be on the run until she reached Zokhawthar, a border town in Mizoram, in the autumn of 2022. Two of her pro-democracy colleagues at the Falam hospital also made it to Zokhawthar.

The three of them were entrusted with running the makeshift Lailun Medical Centre in Zokhawthar, referred to as the 'refugee clinic' by the Mizo people. The centre primarily treats sick or injured Myanmar nationals who have been displaced. It is located about 110 km from their hospital at Falam, which had the highest concentration of Myanmar nationals displaced by the civil war, which is being fought between armed civilian groups called the People's Defence Forces (PDF), which are allied to the self-declared National Unity Government in exile, and the Buddhist-dominated military.

Partei Asangneihpari, an English teacher at the Zokhawthar Government Primary School, with her students in class. RAHUL KARMAKAR

The Lailun Medical Centre was set up by the Myanmar-based Institute of Chin Affairs with help from community-based organisations such as the Young Mizo Association and church bodies. The Mizos, the dominant community in Mizoram, are ethnically related to the Chins of Myanmar, the Kuki-Zos of Manipur, and the Kuki-Chins of Bangladesh.

The door of the medical centre faces the road that brought Julali from Falam to Khawmawi, Myanmar's border town, which is connected to Zokhawthar by a 30-metre steel bridge across the Tiau River. Once the passage for formal trade between India and Myanmar, the bridge has been closed to traffic since the COVID-19 pandemic but residents are allowed to walk across up to a certain point on either side of the border.

The PDF and its associated groups have taken control of much of Chin State over the past few months forcing more than 500 Myanmar soldiers to flee to India from where they have been evacuated to Mandalay and other Myanmar military bases.

Thanks to intuition, and knowledge of the history of the conflict, Julali knows that it could be months before she can return to Falam. "Thankfully, the fighting cannot get any closer than this (800-900 metres beyond the Tiau river). We can only go back when the fighting stops completely, and I am not sure if it will be anytime soon although I hear the junta (military) is losing ground," Julali says. She yearns to work again at the Falam hospital in a peaceful atmosphere. Her co-workers at the hospital are currently divided unequally into pro-democracy and pro-junta groups.

Her biggest worry is India's move to fence the border and end the FMR, which might not let her take refuge in Mizoram if things at home go wrong again. "We cannot stay here forever. Our country has been caught in one conflict or the other, and we may have to seek refuge in India again after we go back home," she says.

Ebb and flow

Large swathes of India's present-day Northeast were under the reign of Burmese king Bagyidaw until he lost the first of the three Anglo-Burmese Wars in 1826 and signed the Treaty of Yandaboo. This led to the demarcation of the territories of British-ruled India and Burma, similar to the current alignment of the border between the two countries. The invisible border through hills and jungles hardly made a difference for "separated" locals, belonging to the same ethnic stock and dependent on each other for local trade, farming, and social events. India's independence in 1947 and Burma's in 1948 did not impact the movement of people across the porous border much, except during military operations against Northeast-based extremist outfits that have been using Myanmar as a haven. The visits across the border became more frequent when the two countries agreed in 2018 to implement the FMR. India suspended the FMR in September 2022, given the continued escalation of the refugee crisis after the military coup in Myanmar.

While some 2,000 Myanmar nationals, mostly the Chin people, took refuge in Manipur, the number of displaced people who entered Mizoram touched the 40,000-mark within a year of the coup. The number dropped to about 33,000 by the end of October last year and increased again less than a month later after the civil war reached the Mizoram border.

"The number fluctuates as the Myanmar nationals living close to the border with India come and go depending on gunfights or bombings from the air. The Champhai district is currently sheltering 12,432 Myanmar nationals," says V.L. Hruaimawia, the Mizoram government-appointed liaison officer for the District-Level Committee on Myanmar Refugees.

Almost half the refugees in the district are in Zokhawthar and adjoining villages. Among them is Mawihlengkim, a primary school teacher from Lumbang near Falam. She is among the earliest inmates of Bethel Camp, the largest of the three in and around Zokhawthar housing 503 people.

"We were four teachers at a government-run school teaching all subjects to about 30 students from nursery to Class 4. The other teachers who joined the Civil Disobedience Movement and the students are hopefully safe wherever they are," she says, insisting that life in Myanmar was not so uncertain before the Tatmadaw overthrew the NLD-led government in February 2021.

She arrived in Zokhawthar with her three children on the back of a mini-truck almost two years ago. "Do they have any chance of growing up and studying in the land of our ancestors," she asks.

Two of her children are among the 20 from the refugee camp enrolled at the Zokhawthar Government Primary School, about 1.5 km away. The school has 420 students and only 60 of them are locals. The enrolment in nine other schools in Zokhawthar, four of them private or run by missionaries, is also skewed in favour of refugees.

"How can we not allow the children of people facing a major humanitarian crisis to study in our schools? And they are our people with the same roots and culture divided into two nations without consulting our forefathers," says Thangkunga Pachuau, a teacher at the school.

Partei Asangneihpari, who teaches English at the school, initially found it difficult to manage "so many children" - 50 of the 80 children in her class are Myanmar nationals - who could neither communicate in English or Duhlian, the Mizo tongue. "But they picked up the local language fast probably because each of them speaks at least four languages," she says.

Dealing with the older refugee children has been tougher for the teachers, especially because they suffer bouts of depression caused by the memories of violence back home and the atmosphere of hopelessness in the refugee camp.

"The scars of the civil war are not easy to forget. Unlike many of our brothers and sisters caught in the war, we are fortunate to be safe across the Tiau. The people of Mizoram are treating us well but we cannot live at the mercy of people in a different country forever," says Tumneithanga, a member of a committee of refugees in Zokhawthar. A farmer who left an agriculture plot of 1 sq. km behind in the Chin State's Sekan, he keeps himself occupied with menial jobs.

Bilateral relations

Myanmar's displaced Chins include several lawmakers and government officers who prefer to remain incognito. They are enthused by the news of the PDF and ethnic militias gaining ground against the junta, but are wary of the history of ethnicity-based conflicts in Myanmar and the possibility of the Tatmadaw bouncing back from setbacks. India's strategic ties with the Myanmar military and conflicting views on the refugee issue - Manipur wants the border with Myanmar sealed while Mizoram prefers a status quo - are also causes of worry.

> How can we leave our own people in the lurch? We are passionate about the issue of Zo reunification. This makes our church organisations, individuals, and NGOs take care of the people displaced from Myanmar
>
> **CLEMENT LALHMINGTHANGA**
> Retired Lieutenant Colonel

India is not a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. It does not have a refugee law. Apart from instructing the security forces to push back the refugees, New Delhi was indifferent to requests from the Mizoram government for ₹10 crore as fiscal assistance to look after the displaced people although it agreed belatedly to help in kind. A sulking Mizoram government, then headed by Zoramthanga of the Mizo National Front, later ignored the Centre's order to collect the biometric data of the refugees from Myanmar, an exercise that leaders of the party felt would discriminate against "people of our blood".

Mizoram has a new government now, headed by Lalduhoma, who has been vocal about his party, the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), having inherited a State deep in a financial crisis. This triggered apprehension among the refugees about a possible change in the government's policy. The ZPM has allayed such fears although it has admitted that it cannot stop the Centre from fencing the border and ending the FMR.

"How can we leave our own people in the lurch? We are passionate about the issue of Zo reunification. This passion makes our church organisations, individuals, and NGOs take care of the people displaced from Myanmar," says Clement Lalhmingthanga, a retired Lieutenant Colonel who represents the Champhai South Assembly constituency.

Among the NGOs focused on the welfare of the refugees is the Village-Level Committee on Myanmar Refugees (VLCMR). "We may not be politically relevant to New Delhi but we hope our Central leaders have a humanitarian streak to reconsider the decision to cut off our brethren with a barbed-wire fence, however impractical it might seem given the terrain," Biaktinsanga, a key functionary of the VLCMR, says.

The emphasis is on humanitarianism because many in Mizoram believe that the civil war in Myanmar is less of a factor than the ethnic conflict in Manipur for the decision to fence the India-Myanmar border. The Bharatiya Janata Party-led Manipur government wants its 390-km border with Myanmar fenced primarily to stop people of the neighbouring country from entering the State. The Manipur government has been blaming the ethnic conflict since May 2023 between the majority Meitei community and the Kuki-Zomi people on "infiltrators" from Myanmar.

From Page One

Champai Soren sworn in as CM of Jharkhand

The MLAs are likely to stay put in the resort till Monday morning. Earlier, after taking his oath, Mr. Champai Soren said that he would continue the former CM's work to strengthen tribal rights. "Under the leadership of Hemant Soren, the State developed a lot. He raised the voice of the tribals and tried his level best to resolve their problems... We will work on every sector – be it health, education, agriculture or law and order – keeping public interest in mind," the new CM said.

Mr. Champai Soren also held his first Cabinet meeting, at which it was decided to convene a special two-day session of the Jharkhand Assembly from February 5.

Remanded to ED custody

Earlier in the day, a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act court granted the ED five days remand of Mr. Hemant Soren, who was arrested in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam. The former CM had resigned on Wednesday after ED officials held him for over seven hours of questioning for the second time, at his official residence.

After his resignation, senior JMM leader and Transport Minister Champai Soren was elected as the leader of the legislative party. A five-time MLA from Saraikela, Mr. Champai Soren earned the nickname of 'Jharkhand Tiger' while playing an active role in the movement for Jharkhand's Statehood in the 1990s, alongside JMM patriarch Shibu Soren. Before taking oath, the new CM went to meet the party chief – who is also Mr. Hemant Soren's father – and sought his blessings.

'Remote control CM'

BJP leader and Ranchi MLA C.P. Singh mocked Mr. Champai Soren, alleging that he would become a 'remote control Chief Minister'. "It is true that Champai Soren is a senior leader and close to Shibu Soren's family, so it is obvious that he will operate through a remote control and that remote would be in the possession of Soren's family. He will not be allowed to take any decision on his own. He will just follow the instructions of Soren's family. Congress and RJD are there and they will blackmail him. Loot will increase ahead of the Assembly election in Jharkhand, because little time is left," Mr. Singh alleged.

The Jharkhand BJP held its legislative party meeting at party headquarters in Ranchi to discuss the present political situation in the State.

Vijay floats party, to contest 2026 polls

In a three-page statement, Mr. Vijay said the party will start propagating its "Tamil Nadu-centric" ideology and policies, among the people through public events after the Lok Sabha election. In the intervening period party cadres will be "politicised" and the party's reach in the grassroots will be strengthened and office-bearers will appointed "democratically".

Mr. Vijay said he doesn't consider politics as "just another profession" and that it is a "sacred service of people". "I have learnt not just the heights of politics but its depths from seniors in politics. Politics is not my hobby, it is my quest," he said.

While the actor has not kept his fans and public guessing about his political plunge, he has been involved in political skirmishes in the last 15 years with both the DMK and AIADMK, the two dominant parties of Tamil Nadu.

When the DMK was in power during 2006-2011, Mr. Vijay's film *Kaavalan* (2011) ran into problems during its release, which was widely attributed to the interference of the members of the ruling party.

After the civil war in Sri Lanka, Mr. Vijay had accused the Central and State governments of failing to safeguard Tamil fishermen who were being attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy.

After the AIADMK came to power, Mr. Vijay's another film, *Thalaivaa* (2013), also ran into trouble mainly due to its tagline '*Time of Lead*'. Its release was delayed forcing him to appeal to then Chief Minister Jayalalithaa and also drop the tagline.

HC refuses interim relief to Gyanvapi mosque panel

Puja to continue in cellar of mosque; over 2,000 Muslims gather for Friday prayers; shops owned by Muslims remain shut in protest against court order; armed police deployed outside mosque

Ishita Mishra
VARANASI

Keeping vigil: A road leading to the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi on Friday. R.V. MOORTHY

The Allahabad High Court on Friday declined to give any immediate relief to the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee that runs the Gyanvapi mosque, which had approached the court seeking an interim stay on the puja which is being observed in the mosque's basement on the orders of the district court.

A large police force, including the Provincial Armed Constabulary, was deployed outside the Gyanvapi mosque as Friday namaz was offered with over 2,000 worshippers in attendance, amid protests from the Muslim community which shut shops to demonstrate its unhappiness against the court order allowing Hindu worship inside the mosque.

While hearing the application filed by the mosque committee through senior advocate S.F.A. Naqvi, Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal pointed out that the applicants have not challenged the January 17 order of the district court appointing the Varanasi District Magistrate as the receiver of the southern cellar of the mosque. On the same application, the district court had, on January 31, allowed puja to be performed inside the Vyas Tehkhana, or cellar, of the mosque. Within hours of the order, the district administration ensured compliance, removing the barricades and fencing around the mosque to let a priest enter the cellar. Puja was then performed during the wee hours on February 1 and is continuing.

"You have filed the application under Order 7 Rule 11 (Rejection of Plaint) after the appointment of a receiver. How will this appeal be maintainable unless that order is challenged?" the court said. It directed the mosque committee to amend its plea and set the next date of hearing for February 6. The court also ordered the district administration to maintain law and order in the town.

Thousands offer namaz

Over 2,000 Muslims gathered at the Gyanvapi mosque to offer namaz on Friday afternoon, putting the police on its toes to maintain the law and order situation. Announcements were made to ensure that worshippers did not gather at any one spot. Senior members of the Muslim community made appeals to the people to peacefully offer Friday prayers. The police also conducted a flag march ahead of the prayers. The mosque committee had also appealed to Muslims to keep their shops and businesses closed, and most complied.

"We had urged the young generation of our community to maintain complete peace. But one can easily see that there is an anger among people of the community as so many of them have gathered at Gyanvapi to offer *namaz*. We had to ask many people to return as the mosque had a limited space," said S.M. Yaseen, joint secretary of the mosque committee.

'What we are seeing in Varanasi is not an isolated incident'

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

There was no temple where Jama Masjid or Gyanvapi Masjid stands in Varanasi. This was stated at what was probably the largest press conference of six prominent Muslim bodies in recent years. The Muslim leaders also expressed "disappointment with various lower level courts for failing to uphold the Places of Worship Act", and accused the Executive of testing the patience of the Muslim youth.

"Islam does not permit destruction of another place of worship to build a mosque," said Khalid Saifullah Rehmani, president, All India Muslim Personal Law Board. "What we are seeing today is an attempt to destroy Hindu-Muslim relations in the name of temple-mosque. For centuries Hindu temples have stood here. They were not disturbed by Muslim rulers," Mr. Rehmani said.

Giving voice to their deep regret and concern, Muslim leaders said here that the swift initiation of puja in a cellar of Gyanvapi mosque, despite the court granting a seven-day window for the administration to make necessary arrangements, had raised questions about apparent collusion between the administration and the plaintiff, attempting to foreclose any effort by the Masjid Managing Committee to pursue remedies against the District Court's order.

'Facilitating takeover'

The leaders expressed apprehension that the Babri Masjid saga could be repeated, the way things have unfolded in Varanasi in recent weeks.

Arshad Madani, president, Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind, drew attention to the increasing number of petitions filed in various courts seeking change in the character of Muslim places of worship since the Babri Masjid verdict came in November 2019.

"What we are seeing in Varanasi is not an isolated incident... There is a question around Eidgah in Mathura, another mosque in Ahmedabad, another in Sambhal, and Delhi's Jama Masjid too. The speed with which these issues have been raised makes one feel that the courts have developed certain elasticity to facilitate the takeover of places of worship," said Mr. Madani.

Mr. Rehmani said the Muslim leadership has always advised the community to remain patient and have faith in the judiciary. "However, for how long," he asked even as all leaders expressed the apprehension that their faith in the judiciary was wearing thin.

Doubt Cong. will get 'even 40 seats' in LS polls, says Mamata

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday challenged the Congress to take on the BJP in the Hindi heartland States even as she expressed doubt in its ability to secure "even 40 seats" in the upcoming Lok Sabha election.

Ms. Banerjee's remarks followed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's assertion that discussions on seat-sharing with the ruling party in West Bengal were ongoing and the matter would be resolved.

Strongly criticising the Congress's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, Ms. Banerjee compared it to a "mere photo opportunity" for "migratory birds" aimed at dividing minority votes in the State.

"I proposed that Congress contest 300 seats (across the country where BJP is the main opposition) but they refused to heed. Now, they have arrived in the State to stir up Muslim voters. I doubt whether they will secure even 40 seats if they contested 300," she asserted. Addressing a dharna in Kolkata to demand the clearance of the State's dues by the Centre, Ms. Banerjee reiterated her party's willingness to form an alliance with the Congress for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal but emphasised that it was the grand-old party which declined her offer.

"We were open to an alliance, offering them two seats, which they rejected. We will fight alone and defeat the BJP in Bengal," she said.

Asked why the Congress was giving importance to Ms. Banerjee, Mr. Gandhi said, "Neither Mamata*ji* has said, nor the Congress has come out of the alliance. Even Mamata*ji* is saying that she is in the alliance. Seat negotiations are on from both ends. It will be resolved."

SP, Congress reach final agreement on seat sharing

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) general secretary Ram Gopal Yadav on Friday said the party has reached a final agreement with the Congress on seat distribution in Uttar Pradesh and added that the SP will declare more candidates soon for the Lok Sabha election scheduled for April-May this year.

"We announced candidates for 16 Lok Sabha seats. We will declare more seats in a couple of days," said Mr. Yadav, a five-time Rajya Sabha member.

"Our alliance with the Congress is final... We have offered 11 seats to them [Congress]. The INDIA alliance will make sure that in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP will get defeated," said SP spokesperson Sunil Singh Yadav 'Sajan'. There are a total of 80 Lok Sabha seats in the State. The SP on January 30 had announced 16 candidates for the Lok Sabha elections.

CBI searches premises linked to activist in FCRA 'violation' case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Harsh Mander

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday searched two premises linked to former Indian Administrative Service officer and social activist Harsh Mander, in a case of alleged Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) violation involving a non-government organisation, Centre for Equity Studies (CES). The agency has named the Delhi-based organisation and its chairperson-cum-secretary, Mr. Mander, as the accused in the case, which has been registered on the basis of a preliminary enquiry launched on April 13, 2023. According to the First Information Report, the enquiry was instituted on a written complaint from the Union Home Ministry against associations such as CES, Aman Biradari Trust, Oxfam India, and Action Aid Association, for alleged violation of the FCRA. Established in 2001, CES was registered as a trust with the Sub-Registrar (Delhi) for charitable purposes. The organisation got FCRA registration in 2010. As alleged, the agency found that CES transferred over ₹32.71 lakh, other than salary/ wages/ remuneration from its FCRA account to those of some individuals during 2020-21 in violation of the FCRA provisions. It also allegedly diverted ₹10 lakh from its FCRA account through the firm(s) in contravention of the Act.

Mr. Mander said he was strengthened in his resolve and added that "my life, my writings and my work are my only response".

Centre notifies appointment of new Chief Justices to 6 High Courts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Law and Justice on Friday notified the appointments of new Chief Justices (CJs) across six High Courts (HCs).

The new appointments are at the High Courts of Allahabad, Gauhati, Meghalaya, Orissa, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan.

New appointments

Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, who was the acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, has been appointed as Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.

Justice Arun Bhansali of Rajasthan High Court has been appointed as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court.

Another judge of the Rajasthan High Court, Justice Vijay Bishnoi, will now be the new Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court.

Justice S. Vaidyanathan, judge of the Madras High Court, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.

Justice Ritu Bahri, acting Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court.

Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh of the Patna High Court has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court.

In December last year, the Supreme Court Collegium had made the recommendations of Justices Arun Bhansali, Vijay Bishnoi and M.M. Shrivastava as Chief Justices.

The recommendations of Justices Vaidyanathan, Sharan Singh and Bahri were made by the Supreme Court Collegium a month earlier in November 2023.

As Ariha turns three, mother Dhara Shah appeals to PM to intervene

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

As Ariha Shah, the Indian child taken into parental custody by German Youth Services in 2021 turned three years old, her mother Dhara Shah made another plea to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene in the matter, alleging that German authorities were making no attempt to introduce her to Indian culture.

Ms. Shah, who was allowed to visit her daughter under supervision last week, says that despite the Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA) request that German Youth Services or Jugendamt ensure the child is brought up culturally "as an Indian", Ariha speaks only German and is not being taught English or any other Indian language. She also said that the Jugendamt had turned down a request from the Indian community in Berlin to allow Ariha to attend the Indian Embassy's Republic Day function.

"She now doesn't call me Mama, and refers instead to her guardian as her mother," the mother, in tears, told *The Hindu*. "I am now trying to learn German so I can speak to her," she added.

When asked, sources said that the MEA remains in "constant engagement" with the German authorities on the matter, and are "working on a road map" to teach the child Indian languages. It is understood that proposals to teach her English as well as to find Indian teachers in Germany who could teach Ariha Hindi and Gujarati are also being pursued. The sources said that due to the MEA's efforts German authorities have granted Indian diplomats consular access on a periodic basis in addition to the visitation granted to the parents, and Indian mission officials have handed over "resource materials" on Indian festivals and customs to help her remain in touch with her faith and culture.

The parents received a major setback after the Family Court in Berlin granted Ariha's custody to the Jugendamt in 2023. FILE PHOTO

"The MEA is making efforts, but we don't see any results so far," Ms. Shah said in a taped statement addressed to PM Modi. "Please, she is three years old today, please help us bring her home as soon as possible. Please Modi*ji* save Ariha, repatriate Ariha," she said in the video released on Friday. While the MEA and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has taken up the Ariha case publicly, stressing that the child should be allowed to return to India, even if her custody is not restored to her parents, Mr. Modi has not so far commented or intervened in the matter, or in his public interactions with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz who visited India twice in 2023.

The parents, Bhavesh Shah and Dhara Shah received a major setback after the Family Court in Berlin granted Ariha's custody to the Jugendamt in June 2023, two years after she was taken from her parents on charges of serious abuse. The Shahs have denied the charges of intentional abuse, and held the injuries that the child had been taken to the hospital with were "accidental". The Shahs are now working on the appeals process, but that could take years, and failing any order in their favour, Ariha will stay in German custody, cared for by appointed caretakers until she turns 18.

"Today is Ariha's third birthday – like any parents our child's birthday is very important but we can't see her today as we don't have permission. She is living like an orphan, all alone for 2.5 years with German services. We can't bear to see our child like this," Ms. Shah said in her plea.

Opposition, ruling members engage in heated debate in LS

Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi says government is trying to divert attention from joblessness and economic distress; INDIA bloc is like a cricket team with 11 captains, says BJP's Heena Gavit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Friday started the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address to a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament, with members of the Treasury and Opposition benches engaging in a heated debate.

Opening the debate, BJP MP Heena Gavit focused on the development record of the Modi government, while Gaurav Gogoi of the Congress led the Opposition's charge by raising issues such as growing unemployment, misuse of Central agencies, and border transgressions by China.

Targeting the Opposition INDIA bloc, Ms. Gavit compared it to a cricket team with 11 captains, none willing to accommodate the other. "INDIA bloc leaders are like 'Big Boss' participants who live under one roof but everyone eyes the 'trophy' of becoming the Prime Minister," she said.

Ms. Gavit added that it would not be surprising if INDIA bloc leaders started switching sides one after another, witnessing the all-round development under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Raising charges: Deputy Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi speaking in Parliament, in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

Hitting back, Mr. Gogoi accused the government of resorting to "attention management" to distract the nation from economic distress, and trying to silence the Opposition by unleashing the Central investigation agencies against them.

Diverting attention

Claiming that the Modi government had "a doctorate in attention management", he pointed out that when the Opposition asked why the Prime Minister had not visited strife-torn Manipur, the government talked about G-20. "When we raise questions on China entering our territory, they try to divert the attention by saying that 'we are more powerful than the Maldives'. When we say 10% of the population is controlling 50% of the country's wealth, they claim to be the fastest-growing economy," he added.

Asaduddin Owaisi of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen claimed that "17 crore Muslims in India felt like how the Jews did in Germany during the Second World War".

Rajendra Agarwal, BJP MP from Meerut, said that despite the perception being created by the Opposition, Prime Minister Modi – through measures like aspirational districts – signalled that he only saw development and not vote bank politics.

"Congress has not only contributed to corruption but also appeasement politics and division in society," he said, adding that the Opposition's reaction to the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya undervalued a matter of faith for crores of people.

BJP MP Tejaswi Surya and Congress MP Karti Chidambaram faced off on the question of imposition of Hindi. Mr. Surya said that it was the Congress which "imposed Hindi" through repeated education policies and the three-language formula. "It was only when the NEP [National Education Policy] was brought in by the Modi government that this was removed and higher education in local language was encouraged," he said.

He said the BJP was consistent in its stand against the imposition of any one language across the country. Mr. Chidambaram said that Mr. Surya's words were not borne out by reality. "In reality, the ruling party believes that uniformity is unity, whereas we in the Opposition will always fight to preserve the linguistic and religious diversity of India," he said, describing the ruling party as going in for "one language, one religion and now even one God".

Kharge targets Centre over unemployment, inflation, and attempts to end reservation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, on Friday attacked the Centre over rising unemployment, inflation, and reported attempts to end reservation. In the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he accused the BJP members of promoting and protecting the "monocratic style" of Mr. Modi.

Participating in a discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, Mr. Kharge said the recent developments in Jharkhand and Bihar showed that regime changes could be smooth if someone joined the BJP's side. While Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren had to wait two days for his swearing-in, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar could resign and take oath within hours.

Mr. Kharge asked Mr. Modi to rein in statements and actions that support de-reservation. He said the Prime Minister should have condemned the recent draft guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC) on de-reserving faculty posts meant for candidates from the scheduled communities. "The Prime Minister is silent

Mallikarjun Kharge

when SC, ST, OBC and women are attacked. Otherwise, he would speak for hours on anything. But on issues such as Manipur violence, he would be silent. Why didn't you go to Manipur?" he asked.

He said the Prime Minister should have spoken when the attackers of Bilkis Bano were welcomed in Gujarat with garlands and sweets. "PM should have condemned [it when] Bilkis Bano's attackers were garlanded," he said.

He also raised the recent issue of violence against a girl student in Banaras Hindu University.

Piyush Goyal, the Leader of the House, said the Congress chief was raising divisive issues. He also claimed that the data on inflation placed by Mr. Kharge was baseless.

Speaking on unemployment, the Congress leader pointed out that youngsters were willing to risk their lives for a job in Israel rather than die of starvation in India. "People are saying that had they got any jobs here, they would have stayed in India," he said, adding that unemployment had only increased under the Modi regime. "You have all powers. Why don't you fill 30 lakh vacancies with the Centre," he said and added that jobs in the government sector and PSUs were the only hope for marginalised communities. "If you deny them that, they would say *Inquilab Zindabad* (long live revolution). Do not test their level of tolerance," he said.

Mr. Kharge noted that there was a decrease of 45,696 in the number of officers belonging to the OBCs in public banks and insurance companies in the past five years. He said that "41.1% of vacancies of doctors in AIIMS are not filled". "There are about 4,600 vacancies in IITs, 32% faculty posts are vacant in Central Universities and among them, 39% belong to SC, 46% belong to ST, 45% belong to OBC and 72% belong to economically weaker sections," he said, adding that experiments like Agnipath were imposed on the defence forces without any consultations.

'Governors have little regard for Constitution'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The conflict between Governors and Chief Ministers in several States was raised by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MP T.R. Baalu in the Lok Sabha on Friday, where without mentioning names, he said that the behaviour of some Governors was "as if they had no care about what is there in the Constitution". He requested President Droupadi Murmu to "pull them up".

He also raised the issue of lack of funds promised by the Union government for dealing with the "unprecedented" floods in Tamil Nadu.

The allusion to Governors and their roles was in the context of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, where relations between the government and the Governors have not been harmonious.

"Many Governors think they have a halo behind their heads, as if they have no care about what is there in the Constitution. They feel they are above everyone else. One Governor only read the last line of his address to the State Assembly," he said.

"In some States, the Governor is competing with the Opposition to scold the government," he added.

Arjun Ram Meghwal

'No time limit for panel to submit report on one nation, one election'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal on Friday informed the Lok Sabha that no specific time limit had been provided for the high-level committee on simultaneous polls, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

In a written reply, Mr. Meghwal said that the committee on 'one nation, one election' had so far received 35 responses from political parties.

He noted that "no specific time limit" had been provided for the submission of the report by the Kovind panel.

No deadline

To a question on whether the committee had set any deadline to consider the suggestions received from various quarters, the Law Minister replied in the negative.

Set up in September last, the high-level committee's mandate was to examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, municipalities and panchayats keeping in view the existing constitutional framework.

Meanwhile, in a separate statement, the Law Ministry said that the high-level committee held its fifth meeting, during which a delegation from the Confederation of India Industry called on them.

Opposition stages walkout in protest against Soren arrest

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Trinamool, which refuses to ally electorally with Congress, too joined the united protest

Opposition MPs walked out of both Houses of Parliament on Friday in protest against the arrest of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The decision to put up a united stand was taken at the INDIA bloc's parliamentary strategy meeting on Friday morning, the first meeting after the exit of the Janata Dal(U) from the bloc and the Trinamool Congress's announcement that it would not ally with the Congress in West Bengal for the Lok Sabha election. The 10 a.m. meeting at the office of the Leader of the Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had sparse attendance, reflecting the diminished ranks of the Opposition coalition.

The Trinamool – which has said it will stay within the coalition though it will not ally electorally with the Congress – was invited for the meeting, but decided not to attend. The Congress's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, which concluded its West Bengal leg on Friday, had also seen the participation of Communist Party of India (Marxist) state secretary Mohammed Salim, further precipitating the tensions between the Congress and Trinamool.

Their differences with the Congress, however, did not stop Trinamool MPs from also walking out of Parliament to protest against Mr. Soren's arrest.

SC asks Hemant Soren to approach High Court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Special Bench of the Supreme Court on Friday refused to intervene in a plea by former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren challenging his arrest on money laundering charges in a land scam case, asking him to approach the Jharkhand High Court.

"Why don't you go to the High Court. It is a constitutional court. The High Courts are open to everyone... Once we permit you to come directly here, we will have to permit everybody," Justice Sanjiv Khanna told senior advocates Kapil Sibal and A.M. Singhvi, appearing for Mr. Soren.

The Bench, also comprising Justices M.M. Sundresh and Bela M. Trivedi, requested the High Court to consider and decide Mr. Soren's petition expeditiously.

Mr. Sibal alleged the Centre was "trying to topple the government" in Jharkhand. "There are matters which you have directly entertained. My Lords should be consistent ... You see, there are situations and then there are situations," Mr. Sibal emphasised. Mr. Singhvi said the Supreme Court had concurrent jurisdiction with the High Court. Discretion lay with the Supreme Court whether or not to entertain cases.

Justice Khanna said he and his Associate Judges on the Bench were of the consistent view that petitioners ought to adhere to the tiers of appeal and not jump the queue to come directly to the Supreme Court. "Please go to the High Court... We have to do this in a consistent manner," Justice Khanna said.

When Mr. Sibal asked the Bench to give the High Court a timeline to complete the hearing, Justice Khanna said he did not want to "control" the High Court.

Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, for the Enforcement Directorate (ED), said Mr. Soren had filed an "identical petition" in the High Court. "The fact of the matter is the High Court is hearing his petition," he addressed the Bench. He remarked that the jail had been converted to a five-star hotel.

The court, in its order, noted how Mr. Soren had, on his own initiative, withdrawn his writ petition challenging provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) from the Supreme Court while "seeking liberty to approach the High Court for the same set of reliefs" on September 18, 2023.

The ED arrested Mr. Soren under the PMLA on January 31 after he submitted his resignation as Chief Minister. Mr. Sibal mentioned that the case of arrest of Mr. Soren again highlighted the misuse of powers by the ED owing to the ambiguity about the actual intent of Section 19 (procedure for arrest) of the PMLA.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 70-CECNMS-23-24-E-427632
Dated: 12.01.2024

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.ireps.gov.in The Tenderers / Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

NAME OF THE WORK			
Tiruchchirappalli Division - Villupuram - Pondicherry Section. Proposed construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of existing LC No.45 at Km. 36/500-600 between Villupuram and Pondicherry Stations - Substructures with Pile Foundation and Super Structure with composite girder of overall length 1x30.90m (Effective span 1 x 30.00m) across the tracks and approach span with PSC 'I' girder with Subway and other miscellaneous works (TWO PACKET SYSTEM)			
Cash Value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Period of Completion (Months)	Closing Date @ 15.30 hrs.
582185367.86	3060900.00	12 Months	07.02.2024

For further details, please refer to website portal www.ireps.gov.in or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

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WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in
WBSETCL

E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED:-

NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/66 KV-10 MVA/23-24/28 Date: 03.02.2024	Procurement of 10 MVA, 66/11 kV, 3ph Power Transformer. Bid documents can be downloaded from **03.02.2024, 11:00 A.M.** and bids shall be submitted (online) up to **04:00 P.M., 27.02.2024**.
NIT No.: CE(Procurement)/WBSETCL/Auditor_ISO/2023-24/29 Date: 05.02.2024	Engagement of Certifying Agency for carrying out jobs of Information Security Audit leading to ISO:27001 Certification at SLDC, WBSETCL. Bid documents can be downloaded from **05.02.2024, 11:00 A.M.** and bids shall be submitted (online) up to **04:00 P.M., 05.03.2024**.

Visit the following websites:- www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.
ICA- T2583(3)/2024

Sundram Fasteners Limited
CIN: L35999TN1962PLC004943
Registered & Corporate Office: 98-A, VII Floor, Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004
Tel: +91 - 44 - 28478500 | Fax: 91 - 44 - 28478510
Email: investorshelpdesk@sfl.co.in | Website: www.sundram.com

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

(₹ in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended	Nine months ended	Quarter ended	Quarter ended	Nine months ended	Quarter ended
		31.12.2023	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2023	31.12.2023	31.12.2022
		(Unaudited)			(Unaudited)		
1	Total Revenue from Operations	1,180.62	3,630.58	1,226.87	1,367.25	4,199.83	1,403.03
2	Net Profit for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	155.58	464.17	142.05	171.85	517.42	156.50
3	Net Profit for the period (before tax)	155.58	464.17	142.05	171.85	517.42	156.50
4	Net Profit for the period (after tax)	116.19	346.65	106.13	129.44	391.23	118.07
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	119.80	363.97	115.72	139.19	404.54	134.98
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Re 1/- each fully paid up)	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01
7	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (Face value of Re 1/- each) (not annualised) (in Rs.)						
	(a) Basic	5.53	16.50	5.05	6.12	18.47	5.57
	(b) Diluted	5.53	16.50	5.05	6.12	18.47	5.57

Notes:
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of the standalone and consolidated financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and on the Company's website www.sundram.com.
2 The Statutory Auditors have carried out a limited review for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2023 and have issued an unmodified report thereon.

Place : Chennai
Date : February 2, 2024

For Sundram Fasteners Limited
Suresh Krishna
Chairman

INBRIEF

Former Madhya Pradesh CM Chouhan meets BJP chief

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan called on BJP national president J.P. Nadda in New Delhi late on Thursday. Taking to X, Mr. Chouhan posted: "Had a courtesy call on the national president of the BJP, J.P. Nadda *ji* in New Delhi today." Mr. Chouhan was in Delhi to attend the wedding reception of Indore Lok Sabha member Shankar Lalwani's son. A BJP source said Mr. Chouhan accompanied Mr. Nadda in his car to his home where the two held talks for more than an hour. The meeting comes just days after Chief Minister Mohan Yadav was in the national capital to meet Mr. Nadda and various Union Ministers.

SC clarifies stay order on *ex post facto* environmental nod

The Supreme Court on Friday clarified that its order, which stayed government directives allowing retrospective environmental clearance to projects affecting ecology, will not affect authorities from considering applications seeking modification/alteration of schemes cleared prior to July 7, 2021. It had on January 2 stayed the implementation of two directives issued by the Ministry of Environment on July 7, 2021, and January 20, 2022. A Bench said that that the stay would not "come in the way of authorities considering proposals for modifications in the environmental clearances if the projects have valid clearance prior to July 7, 2021".

Centre likely to foot bill for PM rooftop solar scheme

It will enable 1 cr. families to get up to 300 units of free electricity every month; the scheme could potentially cost at ₹1-lakh crore; PSUs to take up responsibility of powering beneficiary households

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

As part of a renewed thrust to increase adoption of household rooftop solar systems (h-RTS) through the Pradhan Mantri Suryoday Yojana, the Centre is likely to bear the entire cost of setting up such systems for households that consume less than 300 units of electricity a month.

This could potentially cost at least ₹1 lakh crore, and in a departure from the existing approach to h-RTS, it will see Union government companies – as opposed to the current set-up of individual State-run power distribution companies – taking up the responsibility of powering beneficiary households.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech on Thursday said one crore households would be enabled to obtain up to 300 units of free electricity every month, which would translate to benefits of ₹15,000 to ₹18,000 annually for households. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the scheme after the consecration ceremony in Ayodhya last month.

Ramp up: The officials of PSUs will reach out to State governments and citizens for installing rooftop solar panels in India. S.S. KUMAR

Hassle-free installation

For implementation, public sector units of the Power Ministry such as the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) will be charged with identifying households that consume less than 300 units a month in States. This won't be challenging as about 85% of Indian households, on average, use 100 to 120 units a month. This done, they will install RTS with eligible householders having to pay effectively nothing. "Sixty per cent of the cost of installation will be subsidised by the Centre. For the rest, the PSU will take a loan (from a bank) and will repay from the cost of electricity (used by the household) over and above the 300 units. You as a householder pay nothing," R.K. Singh, Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy, said on Friday.

Households with consumption of over 300 units can also use the scheme. However, they would be required to fund the 40% themselves through a loan or self-financing. "It's still a great scheme because it would pay itself back in seven to 10 years after which you can sell electricity back to the grid and earn," he added.

Each public sector unit will be tasked with reaching out to specific States. They will form special purpose vehicles (SPV) with private companies to execute the programme.

There is as yet no budgetary outlay specified for the scheme. However back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that electrifying one crore households could cost at least ₹1.5 lakh crore. A 2 kilowatt to 3 kilowatt (kw) system is sufficient to draw a minimum 300 units for a household. Currently, it costs about ₹50,000 per kw, said Mr. Singh, implying ₹1,50,000 capital cost for a household. The Budget suggests that only ₹4,555 crore has been allocated this year, but being an interim Budget, this could change.

There is as yet no deadline for the scheme. India currently has 6.7 lakh households with rooftop solar systems, Mr. Singh said. Reaching one crore households is thus an exponential expansion. "Uptake has been low so far because people were unaware of how to install RTS. From now on, people (PSU) will reach out to those households (<300 units). The speed of installation will go up four to five times faster."

Solar panel scheme will boost battery industry, says Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that government initiatives such as rooftop solar scheme and clean cooking mission would provide boost to the battery manufacturing industry and bring down the cost of batteries for electric vehicles.

Speaking at the inauguration of the three-day Bharat Mobility Summit, Mr. Modi said, "If I push the clean cooking movement [in the country with] 25 crore households so that you have rooftop solar [panels] and provision for battery storage, this will fuel clean cooking and demand for batteries. This will bring down the cost of car batteries."

The Prime Minister said his vision was that the solar panels for one crore households announced in the interim Budget would also help in charging vehicles.

Funds for research

He said that there was also an allocation of ₹1 lakh crore in the interim Budget to encourage research and innovation as well as tax exemptions for start-ups, which will create new opportunities for the mobility sector. He urged the industry to conduct research to explore raw materials available in the country for battery manufacturing as well as in the areas of green hydrogen and ethanol.

The Prime Minister said the tyre industry should also collaborate with farmers in order to reduce dependence on import of rubber.

Facilities for drivers

He also announced that the government was working on a project to construct 1,000 buildings on National Highways for truck and taxi drivers with amenities such as food stalls, clean drinking water, toilets, parking and rest places.

"This will give a boost to both ease of living and ease of travelling for truck and taxi drivers, thereby improving their health and also help in preventing accidents," he said.

Law panel suggests retaining criminal defamation provision

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The 22nd Law Commission has recommended that criminal defamation should be retained within the scheme of criminal laws in India, the Law Ministry said on Friday.

The panel submitted its report to the Ministry on Thursday. In its report, the Law Commission argued that the right to reputation is derived from Article 21 of the Constitution that guarantees the right to life and personal liberty and that is why it has to be protected.

"Reputation is something which can't be seen and can only be earned. It's an asset which is built in a lifetime and destroyed in seconds. The whole jurisprudence around the law on criminal defamation has the essence of protecting one's reputation and its facets," it said.

The matter was referred to the law panel by the Ministry in August 2017. Noting that it could be argued that criminal prosecution for defamatory statements stands opposed to the freedom of speech and expression, the law panel advised exercising caution.

"Speech ought to be illegal only where it is meant to do substantial harm and when such harm materialises," the panel cautioned.

Referring to the issue of punishment, it said the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has added a provision of community service as an additional punishment. "This law gives a balancing approach, wherein it has safeguarded the interest of the victim and has also neutralised the scope of misuse by giving an alternate punishment of community service," it said.

Uttarakhand committee on UCC submits report to CM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The five-member committee constituted for drafting the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Uttarakhand handed over its final report to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Friday. The UCC draft, spanning around 750 pages and spread across four volumes, is written in Hindi.

The committee has recommended strict punishment for triple *talaq* and *halala* practices, pertaining to Muslim personal laws and also suggested keeping tribal communities out of the UCC ambit.

Speaking to the media in Delhi, Mr. Dhami said the State government will bring in the UCC as promised. The report will be discussed and passed in the State Cabinet meeting to be held on February 3.

To rein in rice prices, millers, traders told to declare stocks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Worried over the increase in rice prices, the Centre has asked traders/wholesalers, retailers, big chain retailers and processors/millers to declare their stock position of rice and paddy every Friday.

Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said the decision is to manage the overall food inflation and to prevent unscrupulous speculation.

Traders and millers will have to declare the stocks of paddy and almost all categories of rice, such as broken rice, non-basmati white rice, parboiled rice and basmati rice, on the Ministry's designated portal, Mr. Chopra said.

Further, to check inflationary trends, the Centre has decided to start retail sale of 'Bharat Rice' to general consumers. "In the first phase, 5 lakh tonnes of rice has been allocated for retail sale under 'Bharat Rice' brand through three agencies, NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar. Retail price for sale of Bharat Rice to general consumers will be ₹29 per kilogram. Rice will be sold in five kg and 10 kg bags," he said.

He said the retail prices had increased by 14.51% over the past year. "In an effort to curb the prices of rice, various steps have already been taken by the government," he said. Sufficient stock of good quality rice is available with the FCI, which is being offered to traders/wholesalers under open market sales scheme at a reserve price of ₹29/kg.

He said the government's policy of curbs on certain varieties of rice will continue.

Navy foils piracy attempt off east Somalia, rescues 11 Iranians, 8 Pakistanis

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy foiled a piracy attempt on an Iranian-flagged fishing vessel off the east coast of Somalia on Friday and ensured the release of the crew – 11 Iranian and eight Pakistani nationals – along with the boat.

"Information regarding piracy attempt on fishing vessel *FV Omaril* was monitored on January 31. The Indian naval remotely piloted aircraft (RPA), undertaking surveillance in the area, successfully located *FV Omaril,* and *INS Sharda*, deployed for anti-piracy mission in the region, was diverted to intercept the boat," the Navy said in a statement on Friday.

Seven pirates had boarded *FV Omaril* and taken the crew hostages, according to the Navy. "*INS Sharda* intercepted the vessel in early hours of February 2 and used her integral helicopter and boats to coerce the pirates for safe release of crew along with the vessel," it said.

Timely help: One of the Navy personnel on board Iranian-flagged fishing vessel *Omaril* off Somalia on Friday. INDIAN NAVY

The ship also undertook "confirmatory boarding" on the vessel to sanitise it and check on the well-being of the crew, the Navy added.

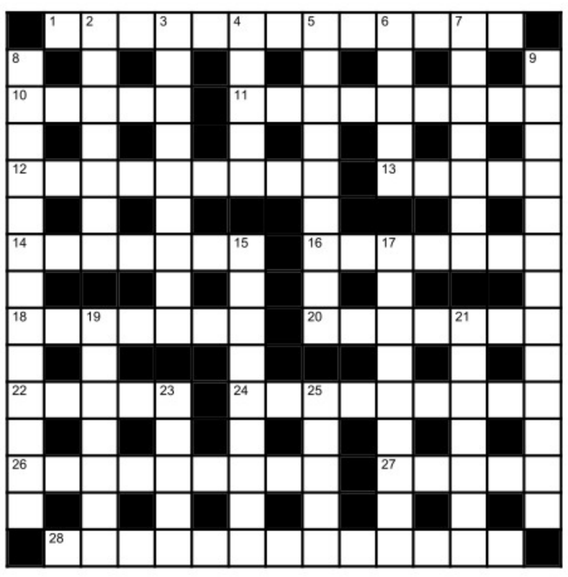
Seven incidents of hijacking of vessels on high seas by pirates have been reported during the last three years, and the Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with the regional and extra-regional navies and maritime forces, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt informed Parliament on February 2. This does not include the latest incident.

TH CROSSWORD + 14088

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 India briefly in the midst of coal shortage, may be gets a professional digger (13)
10 It can turn both ways (5)
11 International language, best to be exposed - each one to follow (9)
12 Make it look pretty with morning glories spread outside (9)
13 Tempted to return inside, rules restrict (5)
14 Fall flat, it's possible before a spell (7)
16 Predict a team to take command (7)
18 Snake renamed, perhaps (7)
20 Reject paper money upfront for some mineral (7)
22 Order main course, include some chicken dish (5)
24 Boycott East German - is blocking lot of people (9)
26 It's very hot and messy - deal with China (9)
27 Dog right in the back (5)
28 Impoverished, strange in a way (2,5,6)

Down

2 Control frames - skill up or teach new skills (7)
3 He had briefly taken shelter, was protected (9)
4 Some time left to raise the tree (5)
5 He may not hear you, but knows what you're talking about (3,6)
6 Key test for a mountain dweller (5)
7 Fermented grains added to a drink (7)
8 I'm categorised to direct these plays (13)
9 They do recall going around with old penny, rather unemotionally (4-9)
15 Bid to stop crime at minister's house (9)
17 Appeal - Let current flow inside (9)
19 Half chicken - I can say it is from Timbuktu (7)
21 Make a face, a serious one (7)
23 Cast in gold for so long (5)
25 Asians add a drop of alcohol in this (5)

SUDOKU

7				6		5		
		1		4	5	3		
			8					1
	3		1		2	6		
5								7
		7	4		8		1	
9					6			
		3	9	1		8		
		4		3				2

No.SS6057 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

S	A	D	D	H	U	■	B	A	R	I	T	O	N	E
K	■	E	■	O	■	O	■	N	■	N	■	P	■	N
E	S	T	A	M	I	N	E	T	■	C	R	U	E	L
T	■	E	■	E	■	I	■	U	■	L	■	I	■	■
C	O	N	C	O	R	D	■	H	A	R	N	E	S	S
H	■	T	■	P	■	I	■	I	■	■	N	■	T	■
E	N	E	M	A	■	M	I	S	S	T	A	T	E	■
S	■	■	■	T	■	E	■	T	■	H	■	■	■	C
■	A	S	T	H	E	N	I	A	■	R	U	M	B	A
O	■	A	■	■	■	S	■	M	■	E	■	A	■	T
L	O	R	E	L	E	I	■	I	N	W	A	R	D	S
D	■	D	■	E	■	O	■	N	■	A	■	P	■	E
B	U	I	L	T	■	N	E	E	D	F	U	L	L	Y
A	■	N	■	G	■	A	■	S	■	I	■	O	■	E
G	R	E	N	O	B	L	E	■	S	T	A	T	U	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	2	9	8	6	5	7	4	3
7	5	4	1	3	9	8	2	6
8	6	3	7	2	4	1	9	5
4	9	8	3	1	2	5	6	7
5	1	6	4	7	8	2	3	9
2	3	7	5	9	6	4	1	8
9	7	1	2	5	3	6	8	4
3	4	2	6	8	7	9	5	1
6	8	5	9	4	1	3	7	2

FAITH

Nothing but the truth

A *grantha* should set forth at the beginning what its main focus is. This is called *vishaya*. How is the *grantha* going to benefit those who read it has also to be told. This is *prayojana*. Who is the *adhikari*, or the one qualified to expound on the text has also to be mentioned. *Sambandha*, which is the connection between *vishaya, prayojana* and *adhikari,* must also be specified. *Srimad Bhagavatam* begins with three *mangala slokas*, said Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse. Here the *vishaya* – that is the main theme of the work – is given as dharma.

Vyasa was the author of the work, and it came to us through his son Suka. Vyasa tells us about dharma in this work. There are two kinds of dharma – siddha dharma and sadhya dharma. Siddha dharma is the Supreme One, Lord Narayana. *Kathopanishad* says that one may be a scholar, or a devotee, but it is Divine will that determines what we should receive. To attain *moksha* He is the means. Sadhya dharma refers to the means we use to reach Him.

Srimad Bhagavatam gives us more peace of mind than the study of Vedanta. It talks about the dharma of virtuous people, whose hearts are pure (*nirmatsaraanaam*). They are free from pride. *Bhagavatam* speaks nothing but the truth. The Lord is not just the goal, but the means to attain that goal, and *Srimad Bhagavatam* shows us this.

SEOUL

North Korea fires more cruise missiles in testing spree

AP

North Korea fired multiple cruise missiles on Friday, Seoul's military said, continuing a streak of weapons testing as Kim Jong-un ramps up what he calls "war preparations". So far this year, Kim has said South Korea is his country's "principal enemy", and threatened war over "even 0.001 mm" of territorial infringement. AFP

KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysian former PM Najib Razak's prison sentence halved to six years

AP

Malaysia's pardons board said on Friday it had halved the jail term for former Prime Minister Najib Razak, currently in prison for corruption, to six years. Najib was sentenced in 2022 to 12 years in jail for offences linked to the misuse of public money in the multi-billion-dollar 1MDB financial scandal. AFP

NAIROBI

Truck with gas canisters explodes, killing three, injuring 280 in Kenya

AFP

A truck laden with gas canisters exploded in a densely populated residential area in Kenyan capital Nairobi, setting off a devastating blaze that killed three and injured 280. The blast at what has been described as an illegal gas depot ignited a huge fireball leaving a trail of destruction and sending residents running for their lives. AFP

ISLAMABAD

24 militants killed in last three days in Pakistan's troubled Balochistan

AFP

At least 24 militants were killed in the past three days during security operations in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, the Army said on Friday. On Thursday, Balochistan was rattled with at least 10 bomb and grenade attacks, killing at least one person and injuring six persons, including a police officer and a jail warden. AP

No power in many Ukraine homes after drone attack

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Ukraine said on Friday that tens of thousands of people were without power after a barrage of two dozen Russian drones damaged energy infrastructure in the centre of the country.

The overnight attack echoed the systematic bombardments by Russian forces last winter that left millions in Ukraine without power, heating or water for extended stretches.

The air force said Moscow had launched 24 Iranian-designed drones at Ukraine, where a national energy provider said its facilities in the Dnipropetrovsk region were damaged.

"This led to a power outage for more than 40,000 subscribers," the head of the region, Sergiy Lysak, said on social media, adding that two mines were also without power.

Hamas gives 'initial' support to truce plan as fighting rages

It has been presented with a three-stage plan which would start with a six-week halt to the fighting that would see more aid deliveries into Gaza; Health Ministry says 112 killed in past 24 hours

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Fighting in Gaza raged on Friday with scores reported killed overnight, after mediator Qatar said Hamas had given its "initial" support to a hostage-prisoner exchange deal that would pause its war with Israel.

The Health Ministry in the Hamas-run territory said 112 people had been killed over the previous 24 hours, while the Hamas press office reported Israeli air and artillery bombardment around Khan Younis – southern Gaza's main city and the focus of recent fighting.

Nearly four months of fighting have left Gaza "uninhabitable", the United Nations says, while an Israeli siege has resulted in dire shortages of food, water, fuel and medicines.

Ray of hope: Palestinians line up for food during the ongoing Israeli air and ground offensive in Khan Younis on Friday. AP

Winter storms brought torrential rain to Gaza on Friday, piling more misery on the hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians who have sought shelter in bombed out buildings and makeshift camps.

The humanitarian crisis and the mounting civilian death toll have triggered calls for a ceasefire.

After a truce proposal agreed with Israeli negotiators was presented to Hamas on Thursday, Qatar's Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari said there were hopes of "good news" about a fresh pause to the fighting "in the next couple of weeks". "That proposal has been approved by the Israeli side and now we have an initial positive confirmation from the Hamas side," he said.

But a source close to Hamas said: "There is no agreement on the framework of the agreement yet – the factions have important observations – and the Qatari statement is rushed and not true."

A Hamas source said the group had been presented with a three-stage plan which would start with an initial six-week halt to the fighting that would see more aid deliveries into Gaza. The pause would also see the release of "women, children and sick men over 60" among the Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Israel, the source said.

Iran Guard among 3 dead in Israel strikes in Syria, say reports

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

An adviser from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is believed to be among the dead

Three pro-Iran fighters were killed in Israeli strikes south of Damascus on Friday, a war monitor said, with Iranian media reporting an adviser from the Revolutionary Guards was among the dead.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said "three members of pro-Iran groups, including an Iranian and an Iraqi" were killed in "Israeli air strikes".

The targets included a site operated by Lebanese militant group Hezbollah on a road leading to the Sayyida Zeinab district and a site on the road to Damascus airport that had recently been vacated by pro-Iran groups, the Britain-based war monitor said.

Iran's Mehr news agency said an Iranian adviser from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Saeed Alidadi, was killed in the strikes.

Syrian state media reported damage from "Israeli" air strikes south of Damascus but did not mention casualties.

During more than a decade of civil war in Syria, Israel has launched hundreds of strikes, primarily targeting Iran-backed forces and the Syrian Army. Its strikes have intensified since the war between Israel and Hamas began on October 7.

Israel rarely comments on individual strikes but has said repeatedly that it will not allow Iran to expand its presence in Syria.

Friday's reported strikes were the second this week. On Monday, missiles fired on a base in Sayyida Zeinab housing Iranian Revolutionary Guards and Hezbollah fighters killed at least eight people, the Observatory reported.

A previous air strike in Sayyida Zeinab in December, also blamed on Israel, killed a senior Iranian general. And on January 20, a strike on Damascus's Mazzeh neighbourhood targeting the Revolutionary Guards' Syria spy chief killed 13 people, the Observatory said.

Iran, a key ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, says its troops are deployed in an advisory capacity only at the request of the Damascus government.

Pro-Iran group in Iraq vows to keep up U.S. strikes

Agence France-Presse
BAGHDAD

Iraq's pro-Iran Al-Nujaba movement said on Friday it intends to press on with attacks on U.S. troops in West Asia, despite Washington's threat to hit back after three of its soldiers were killed in Jordan.

"Any (U.S.) strike will result in an appropriate response," Al-Nujaba leader Akram al-Kaabi said, adding the group would continue its actions until its demands are met for U.S. troops to leave Iraq and an end to Israel's war on Hamas in Gaza.

The Al-Nujaba movement forms part of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an alliance of Iran-backed armed groups that the U.S. has blamed for last weekend's deadly drone attack in Jordan.

Another of the alliance's factions, Kataeb Hezbollah (the Hezbollah Brigades), announced earlier this week that it was suspending its attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria, a decision that Al-Nujaba said it understood and respected.

The Al-Nujaba statement came as U.S. President Joe Biden prepared to receive the bodies of the slain U.S. soldiers at an air force base near Washington.

Rohingya members protest, flee Malaysia detention centre

Associated Press
KUALA LUMPUR

In 2022, 528 Rohingya refugees escaped from detention in northern Penang

More than 100 Rohingya immigrants have escaped from a detention centre in Malaysia after a protest, with one confirmed killed in a road accident, officials said on Friday.

This was the second time in two years that such a breakout occurred. In 2022, 528 Rohingya refugees staged a protest and escaped from detention in northern Penang state.

Immigration Department Director-General Ruslin Jusoh said in a statement that 131 detainees escaped from a centre in Perak state late on Thursday. He said one of the detainees was killed in a road accident.

Nearly 400 personnel were deployed to hunt them down, he added, without giving details on what sparked the breakout.

India will 'replace' its military personnel by May 10: Maldives

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The move came a day after the revised Indian Budget estimates gave Maldives a bigger financial allocation

India will "replace" its military personnel in the Maldives in two phases by May 10, the Government of Maldives has stated after the second meeting of the high-level core group between the two sides that was held here on Friday.

The decision came in the backdrop of Male's demand to end the presence of Indian military personnel in the archipelago nation, which was further complicated because of social media controversy over remarks by three Ministers of the Mohamed Muizzu government that were found to be disrespectful of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The statement, however, did not clarify if the military personnel of India will be replaced by civilian operators or by another batch of armed forces personnel.

A statement from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that the two sides had "agreed on a set of mutually workable solutions to enable continued operation of Indian aviation platforms that provide humanitarian and medevac services to the people of Maldives." The Maldivian side reiterated that the two countries will continue cooperation in the fields of defence and security.

The development came a day after the revised Indian Budget estimates for 2023-'24 gave Maldives a bigger financial allocation than it was previously granted in the current financial year.

Uttar Pradesh New & Renewable Energy Development Agency, (UPNEDA)
(Deptt. Of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of U.P.)
UPNEDA
VibhutiKhand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow Mobile No: 9415609005 Website: www.upneda.org.in E-Mail: ho_ajai@rediffmail.com

Notice Inviting Tender

UPNEDA invites Online Bids from Prospective Bidders through GeM Portal for **Empanelment of Agency for Implementation of 85 cum per day Bio Gas plant at various districts/sites in the State of Uttar Pradesh as per the details given in Bid Document/ Bid Number: GEM/2024/B/4567445.**

S.No	Name of Work	Tentative Quantity (Nos)	Estimated Cost including GST (Rs)
1	Emapanelment of Agency for Implementation of 85 cum per day Bio Gas plant at various districts/ sited in the State of Uttar Pradesh.	10 Nos The tentative capacity mentoined above which may vary. Depending upon the demands to be received from various sources.	Rs. 2.20 Crores

The work completion time for all the above work is 4 (four) month. The Bid document is available at GeMPortal from 01.02.2024. Interested bidders may view, download the Bid document, seek clarification and submit their Bid through GeM Portal upto the date and time mentioned in the table below:

(a)	Availability of tender document on GeM Portal	From : 01.02.2024
(b)	Bid submission end date & Time	On: 12.02.2024 upto 6:00 pm
(c)	Pre-Bid Meeting date & Time	On: 05.02.2024 upto 12:30 pm
(d)	Online technical Bid Opening date & time	On: 12.02.2024 at 6:30 pm
(e)	Financial Bid Opening date & time (Only of technically qualified bidders)	Shall be intimated later
(f)	Venue of opening of technical & financial Bids	UPNEDA Head Office, VibhutiKhand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010

Numbers of the system mentioned as above, may increase or decrease. Director, Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency, (UPNEDA) reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of Director UPNEDA will be final and binding.

Director, UPNEDA

हमारा प्रण ऊर्जा संरक्षण

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600 008.
Phone : 28191890 / 28190259; Fax: 044 –28190636 E-Mail: equipment.tnmsc@tn.gov.in
INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

(1) The Government of Tamil Nadu has received a Loan (Loan No. ID-P251)) from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of Tamil Nadu Urban Healthcare Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for which this Invitation for Bids is issued. (2)The General Manager (Equipment), TNMSC Ltd. now invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of the following goods:

Sl No	Tender/Item with Qty./Document cost	Sale start date	Pre-bid Meeting	End of Submission of bid	Opening of bid
1	Online Tender No. PKG64R/C1.2/P2/LCB/TNUHP/JICA/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 29.01.2024 – Ophthalmology Equipment - I for 3 Tertiary Care Hospitals – Rs.5,725/-	05.02.2024	16.02.2024 11.00 AM	28.02.2024 11.00 AM	28.02.2024 12.00 Noon
2	Online Tender No. PKG65R/C1.2/P2/LCB/TNUHP/JICA/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 29.01.2024 – Ophthalmology Equipment - II for 3 Tertiary Care Hospitals – Rs.5,725/-	05.02.2024	16.02.2024 12.00 Noon	29.02.2024 11.00 AM	29.02.2024 12.00 Noon

(3) For details visit www.tenders.tn.gov.in and TNMSC website **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in.**
(4) All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in Indian rupees as specified in the bid document.

DIPR/593/Tender/2024
General Manager (Equipment) i/c

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) – MDS 2024

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the next NEET-MDS on **18th March 2024**.

Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website https://natboard.edu.in for details pertaining to eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates	
Availability of Information Bulletin	30th January 2024 onwards
Online Submission of the Application Form	30th January 2024 (3PM Onwards) to 19th February 2024 (Till 11:55PM)
Date of Examination	18th March 2024
Declaration of the Result	By 18th April 2024

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
- Helpline Portal on applicant login page
- Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B), NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR
E-mail : seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com

Bid Identification No.S.E.E.C (R&B) 30/2023-24
No. 379 / Date 31.01.2024

The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for E.I.works which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in : **https://tendersorissa.gov.in.** The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **dt.03.02.2024 at 05.00 P.M. to dt.17.02.2024 up to 05.00 P.M.** The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened **dt.19.02.2024 at 11.30 A.M.** in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**.

Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer,**
Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, BBSR.

B-1724: OIPR-34006/11/0039/2324

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INBRIEF

CUB net rises 16% to ₹253 cr. on improved recovery

City Union Bank Ltd. (CUB) said it had posted a 16% year-on-year increase in standalone net profit to ₹253 crore for the December quarter due to improved recovery and reduced slippages, despite challenges. Total income grew by 6% to ₹1,519 crore and interest income by 10% to ₹1,326 crore. Non-interest income slid to ₹193 crore, from ₹224 crore, while net interest income (NII) contracted by ₹40 crore to ₹516 crore, the private sector lender said.

NMDC logs best ever January iron ore sales at 36.49 MT

State-owned mining major NMDC posted a more than 8% increase in iron ore production to 4.54 million tonnes for January, while sales at 4.56 MT is the best ever for the month and nearly 19% higher year on year. For the first 10 months of the fiscal, production at 36.32 MT was an increase of about 17% y-o-y. Sales rose 23% to 36.49 MT. These are the highest ever cumulative production and sales in the company's history during a 10-month period, NMDC said.

Capital SFB fixes initial public offer price band at ₹445-468

Capital Small Finance Bank Ltd. has announced to open the initial public offering (IPO) of its equity shares at face value of ₹10 on February 7 in the price band of ₹445-468 per share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 32 shares and in multiples of 32 shares thereafter. The IPO will close on February 9. The IPO comprises a fresh issue aggregating to ₹450 crore and an offer of sale of up to 1,561,329 shares by the selling shareholders.

KYC, fund laundering concerns said to spur RBI's Paytm unit ban

RBI supervisors learnt to have found KYC details missing for a very large number of customers; bank says 'always complied' with RBI instructions

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Multiple issues

RBI action against Paytm Payments Bank said to have been triggered by irregularities in its compliance with KYC norms

- Auditors found PAN validation failures in lakhs of accounts, with a single PAN used by thousands of customers
- Bank seen to have enabled transactions worth crores in prepaid instruments, raising money laundering concerns
- An unusually high number of dormant accounts were found to have been used as 'mule accounts' to facilitate transactions

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) January 31 action directing Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. (PPBL) to cease all new business transactions by February 29 and settle all pipeline transactions by March 15, was triggered by major irregularities in the bank's compliance with Know Your Customer (KYC) norms, thus exposing customers, depositors and wallet holders to grave risk, said people aware of the developments.

RBI supervisors and external auditors are learnt to have found: KYC details missing for a very large number of customers (running into lakhs); PAN validation failures in lakhs of accounts; a single PAN used for multiple customers (in thousands of cases, the same PAN was linked to more than 100 customers and in some cases to more than 1,000 customers), the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity said.

The bank was also found to be involved in facilitating transactions running into crores of rupees and well beyond regulatory limits in prepaid instruments with minimal KYC requirements, raising money laundering concerns, the people added.

An unusually high number of dormant accounts were found to have been used as 'mule accounts' to facilitate transactions.

"The recent direction from RBI is a part of the ongoing supervisory engagement and compliance process," a Paytm Payments Bank spokesperson said, when asked to comment. "The bank always upheld compliance with supervisory instructions in its interactions with regulator from time to time.

"We therefore request you to be guided by the press release of RBI dated January 31 and refrain from any further speculation," the spokesperson added.

"The Comprehensive System Audit report and subsequent compliance validation report of the external auditors revealed persistent non-compliances and continued material supervisory concerns in the bank, warranting further supervisory action," the RBI had said in its January 31 statement.

The payments bank is accused of not adhering to the 'arm's length policy' while dealing with the Promoter Group Entities. Its financial and non-financial business were co-mingled with its promoter group companies in violation of licensing conditions and RBI directions on the matter, the people contended.

Auditors found the bank's reliance on the IT infrastructure of OCL (One97 Communications Ltd., the listed parent entity) remained absolute and there was no operational segregation. Many transactions were routed through the OCL owned apps, raising concerns on data privacy and data sharing.

On several occasions, compliance details submitted by the bank were found to be false upon verification by RBI supervisors, the people added.

IndiGo's aircraft groundings surpass 70 after engine issue

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The airline, which has 358 aircraft in its fleet, will continue to add a plane a week offsetting groundings

Budget carrier IndiGo reported a fifth straight quarterly profit even as the number of aircraft groundings of its Airbus A320neo planes rose to more than 70, from 40 earlier, following a recent powder metal issue with the fleet's Pratt and Whitney engines.

"Our aircraft on ground are in the mid-70s, which is a slight improvement from our previous estimate," IndiGo's Chief Financial Officer, Gaurav Negi, said on a post-earnings call.

Until October-end, the groundings were in the "mid-40s". In July, the U.S.-based engine supplier PW had said that a powder metal defect could lead to the cracking of some engine components in the twin-engined Airbus A320neo planes and called for accelerated inspections.

However, this has not affected the airline's growth in capacity, which is expected to surpass 20% for the financial year 2024 beating its earlier projection of a 'mid-teens' rate.

The airline, which has a total of 358 aircraft in its fleet, expects to continue to add a plane a week, and along with additional measures such as aircraft on wet leases, foresees the ongoing fleet expansion to help offset the groundings in a "few months".

IndiGo reported a profit of ₹2,998 crore for the quarter ended December. "We continue to recover from the losses of COVID and have now become net worth positive again," the airline said in a statement.

Safety threat: Pratt and Whitney had warned that powder metal defect could lead to cracking of engine components. REUTERS

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	72,085	0.61
US Dollar	82.98	0.00
Gold	63,650	0.31
Brent oil	77.29	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3157.45	3.95
Adani Ports	1261.45	42.60
Apollo Hosp	6320.55	32.60
Asian Paints	2936.30	6.95
Axis Bank	1067.05	-17.20
Bajaj Auto	7738.20	82.45
Bajaj Finserv	1651.50	29.25
Bajaj Finance	6848.30	105.00
Bharti Airtel	1150.80	-0.40
BPCL	558.35	49.90
Britannia Ind	5148.85	0.25
Cipla	1392.65	5.00
Coal India	419.80	13.10
Divis Lab	3699.40	44.00
Dr Reddys Lab	6039.50	46.35
Eicher Motors	3825.55	-107.65
Grasim Ind	2139.45	10.85
HCL Tech	1583.75	6.35
HDFC Bank	1446.15	-20.20
HDFC Life	578.80	-8.30
Hero MotoCorp	4717.30	130.60
Hindalco	583.50	12.25
Hind Unilever	2452.60	-21.00
ICICI Bank	1024.00	-1.15
IndusInd Bank	1533.75	-7.40
Infosys	1693.35	36.30
ITC	440.10	-2.80
JSW Steel	823.55	21.85
Kotak Bank	1822.95	0.20
L&T	3376.05	-21.95
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5485.85	121.20
M&M	1660.75	9.60
Maruti Suzuki	10655.45	17.50
NestleIndia	2481.40	13.60
NTPC	332.50	10.50
ONGC	257.25	9.60
PowerGrid Corp	277.10	11.30
Reliance Ind	2915.40	62.10
SBI Life	1435.45	2.70
State Bank	649.65	2.00
Sun Pharma	1416.65	8.70
TataConsumerProduct	1162.75	33.10
Tata Motors	878.75	0.25
Tata Steel	138.70	3.90
TCS	3966.30	112.15
Tech Mahindra	1338.10	25.60
Titan	3612.40	-15.05
UltraTech Cement	10098.55	176.25
UPL	533.65	3.60
Wipro	483.15	11.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 02

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.72	83.04
Euro	90.11	90.46
British Pound	105.60	106.02
Japanese Yen (100)	56.39	56.61
Chinese Yuan	11.52	11.57
Swiss Franc	96.66	97.05
Singapore Dollar	61.95	62.20
Canadian Dollar	61.88	62.12
Malaysian Ringitt	17.53	17.61
Australian Dollar	54.65	54.86

Source:Indian Bank

Sundram Fasteners posts 9% rise in Q3 net profit to ₹116 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Sundram Fasteners Ltd. (SFL) registered a 9% rise in net profit to ₹116 crore for the December quarter from the year-earlier period.

Revenue from operations slid by 4% to ₹1,181 crore, of which domestic sales accounted for ₹812 crore and export sales ₹339 crore, the manufacturer of high-tensile fasteners said in a statement.

Pursuant to the recent floods in Chennai, SFL's facilities at Padi, Velappanchavadi and Gummidipoondi suffered damages to certain inventories and property, plant and equipment, the company said.

SFL had recorded a net loss of ₹7 crore after adjusting minimum insurance claim based on an initial survey undertaken at these facilities. The company said it continued to have an all-time low debt-equity ratio of 0.11.

Sundram Fasteners said so far it had incurred capital expenditure in line with its planned allocation of ₹300 crore for FY24.

Sundaram Home Fin Q3 net rises 18% to ₹62 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Sundaram Home Finance Ltd. (SHFL), reported third-quarter net profit rose 18% year-on-year to ₹62 crore.

Disbursements increased by 27% to ₹1,252 crore, the wholly owned subsidiary of Sundaram Finance said in a statement.

Assets under management (AUM) stood at ₹12,800 crore, against ₹10,500 crore. SHF hired more than 500 people in the first nine months.

"Tier 2 and 3 towns in the southern market remained strong in the first nine months of the year," said Managing Director D. Lakshminarayanan.

India Cements posts Q3 net loss of ₹17 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

ICL's capacity utilisation was muted on account of stressed working capital conditions

The India Cements Ltd. (ICL) reported standalone net loss of ₹17 crore for the December quarter against net profit of ₹91 crore in the year-earlier period.

Revenue from operations slid to ₹1,082 crore from ₹1,219 crore. The result included a one-time gain of ₹26 crore (₹294 crore) from the sale of a ship, the cement major said in a statement.

On the back of better sales realisation for cement and improved operating performance, ICL pared the losses and made cash profit of ₹6 crore, the company said. Earnings before interest, depreciation, tax and amortisation turned around to a positive ₹66 crore against a negative EBITDA of ₹66 crore, signalling a possible turnaround, ICL said.

ICL's capacity utilisation was muted on account of stressed working capital conditions and it was around 51%. There was further improvement in operating performance with reduction in variable cost on account of lower fuel price and improved blending ratio, ICL said.

The cement and clinker volume contracted to 19.85 lakh tonnes, from 21.82 lakh tonnes.

IRDAI mandates AYUSH option in health covers

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Insurance regulator IRDAI has set April 1 as deadline for insurers to include AYUSH treatment under health covers.

AYUSH refers to Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy.

In a circular, Chief General Manager A. Ramana Rao said the regulator wanted the insurers to have a board approved policy on AYUSH coverage to enable policyholders to choose a treatment of their choice. The policy ought to contain the quality parameters as well as procedure for enrolling AYUSH hospitals/day care centres as network providers for providing cashless facility.

Tube Investments Q3 net rises 14% to ₹158 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The board declared an interim dividend of ₹2 per equity share to be paid by February 29

Tube Investments of India Ltd.'s (TII) standalone net profit for the December quarter rose 14% to ₹158 crore from the year-earlier period driven by strong performance from engineering and metal formed products division.

Total revenue from operations increased by ₹188 crore to ₹1,898 crore, while cost of materials consumed jumped to ₹1,135 crore from ₹1,006 crore.

Engineering division and metal formed products division recorded an enhanced revenue of ₹1,229 crore and ₹392 crore respectively from the year earlier, while the mobility division's revenue contracted to ₹147 crore from ₹174 crore. "TII continued its focus on cost reduction initiatives and operational efficiency through Kaizen improvements. Our subsidiaries CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd. and Shanthi Gears Ltd. continued its strong performance," said Chairman M.A.M. Arunachalam.

The board declared an interim dividend of ₹2 per equity share, which will be paid by February 29.

Tata Motors Q3 net surges more than twofold to ₹7,025 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

P.B. Balaji

Tata Motors Ltd. reported third-quarter consolidated net profit surged over two times to ₹7,025 crore as compared with ₹2,957.71 crore in the year-earlier period due to better performance of all its divisions.

The company, for the period ended December 31, 2023, reported revenues of ₹1,09,799.22 crore as compared with ₹87,783.21 crore a year earlier, up 25%.

The company's India business reported third-quarter standalone profit grew to ₹4,570 crore as compared with ₹506 crore a year earlier. The revenues also increased to ₹18,500 crore as compared with ₹15,693 crore in the year-earlier period.

P.B. Balaji, Group Chief Financial Officer, Tata Motors said on a conference call, "It is satisfying to see our businesses execute well on their differentiated strategies and deliver a strong set of results for the quarter, thereby making it six quarters of consistent delivery."

"We aim to end the year on a strong footing and remain confident of sustaining our performance in the coming quarters and delivering on our deleveraging plans," he said.

Dhruv Mudaraddi, Research Analyst, Stoxbox noted, "Tata Motors delivered robust performance in Q3FY24, with all automotive verticals maintaining profitable growth trajectories. Looking ahead, we remain constructive on Tata Motors agility and are optimistic about the company sustaining its growth momentum in the upcoming quarters."

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

JSW Paints 'Futurescapes' Painting Competition 2024 to be held jointly with The Hindu Young World

With the theme 'Think Beautiful', the contest will have preliminary, regional and national finale rounds

JSW Paints 'Futurescapes' painting competition 2024 will be hosted in association with The Hindu Young World for school students. The last date for receipt of entries for the preliminary round is February 27.

With the theme 'Think Beautiful', the painting competition will have preliminary, regional and national finale rounds. It will be held for categories sub-junior (classes 3-5); junior (classes 6-8) and seniors (classes 9-12). Here are the topics:

SUB-JUNIORS (Classes 3 - 5)	JUNIORS (Classes 6 - 8)	SENIORS (Classes 9 - 12)
1. A day at the zoo	1. A day in the theme park	1. Journey to outer space
2. Underwater dreamland	2. Animal Olympics	2. A zero-pollution world
3. My happy family	3. Sharing a rainbow	3. Unity in diversity

Students may use water colours, crayons and colour pencils to paint on an A3 white drawing sheet of size 11.7x16.5 inches. However, sketch pens and markers can be used for outline purpose only.

The participants must write details, including topic, name, class, school name with branch, city, state, category of participation, parent's name, e-mail ID and mobile number to be eligible to qualify for next round.

The physical drawing must be sent to the nearest office of The Hindu and each participant can submit one entry mentioning 'Young World - JSW Futurescapes Painting Competition 2024' on the envelope. Participants who qualify for the next round will be intimated through their registered email ID or mobile number.

For further details, visit ywc.thehindu.com/jswpaints or contact The Hindu Group Customer Care at 1800 102 1878 between 7 AM and 7 PM

PROLIFIC

Jaiswal has joint second-most runs in a day's play for India vs. England

K.R. DEEPAK

Yashasvi Jaiswal's unbeaten knock of 179 after day one of the second Test match is the joint-second-most runs scored in a day's play for India vs. England. Sunil Gavaskar had scored 179 in a day in 1979 at the Oval. Karun Nair leads the list with 232 runs scored in a single day in Chennai in 2016.

41 AND COUNTING!

Anderson becomes the oldest pacer to play in a Test in India

K.R. DEEPAK

England's James Anderson, at the age of 41 years and 187 days, became the oldest pace bowler to play a Test in India during the second Test match at Visakhapatnam. Anderson broke Lala Amarnath's record (41 years and 92 days old) when he played his final Test match against Pakistan at Eden Gardens in 1952.

UNFORGETTABLE

Debutant Bashir receives Test cap from Somerset teammate Leach

GETTY IMAGES

Shoaib Bashir got his Test cap from Jack Leach, his teammate at Somerset. The offie in fact was replacing the injured Leach. "He had some nice words to say... me and him get on really well," said Bashir. England skipper Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum told Bashir he would be playing during the training on Thursday.

PROUD MOMENT

Bopanna meets PM Modi after his historic Australian Open triumph

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

World No. 1 Rohan Bopanna, who became the oldest man to win a Major, at 43, at the Australian Open, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday on his return to India. "Glad to have met you @rohanbopanna. Your accomplishment makes India proud and your dedication motivates several people," Modi posted on X.

Classy Jaiswal's big, unbeaten ton anchors India's innings

The young southpaw, who stitched together vital partnerships, was nimble with his footwork, timed his shots sweetly, and drove and lofted with panache on his way to a well-crafted second Test century

ENGLAND IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
VISAKHAPATNAM

Elegant: Jaiswal was a delight to watch as he tackled the English attack with aplomb. K.R. DEEPAK

Yashasvi Jaiswal's favourite song is *My Heart Will Go On* by Celine Dion. Luckily for India on Friday, along with his heart, his batting also went on and on.

If it didn't, India would have found itself on the back foot on day one of the second Test against England at the Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy Stadium. Jaiswal is still there. India will want him to be there for some more time on Saturday.

Gifting away wickets

Riding on Jaiswal's brilliant knock (179 batting, 257b, 17x4, 5x6), India finished at 336 for six. That is certainly two or three more wickets the host would have wanted to give away after choosing to bat. Some of those wickets were indeed given away, after the batters did well to get themselves in on a surface that looked good for batting.

None of the other batters reached 35, and that shows the significance of Jaiswal's second Test hundred. That second hundred could have come in the first Test at Hyderabad, but he was one of the three Indian batters who got out in the 80s, which cost India dearly.

On this day, Jaiswal put a price on his wicket. He showed that in the years to come, his could be among the wickets the bowlers value more in international cricket.

It wasn't easy early on, with the 41-year-old James Anderson, who hadn't played for six months, coming up with a probing spell with the new ball. But Jaiswal raised 40 for the opening wicket with captain Rohit Sharma, who looked so determined that he didn't hit even one boundary during his 41-ball stay.

Rohit's watchful knock was ended by the debutant off-spinner Shoaib Bashir, who had to be ruled out of the first Test after his visa was delayed. The 20-year-old ran a few yards and pumped his arms in delight after his low off-break was glanced straight to leg-slip by the Indian skipper.

Anderson's bunny

Shubman Gill (34, 46b, 5x4) raised hopes of getting back into form, but the magnificent Anderson had him caught behind. The champion bowler was dismissing him for the fifth time in seven Test innings.

Jaiswal added 90 for the third wicket with Shreyas Iyer, 70 for the fourth with debutant Rajat Patidar, who looked good while making 32, and 52 for the fifth with Axar Patel.

The elegant left-hander was a treat to watch: he timed his shots sweetly, was nimble with his footwork, drove and lofted with panache, and got to his hundred hitting the first-Test hero Tom Hartley over long-on for a six, dancing down the track.

Earlier, India made three changes to the eleven. Patidar and Kuldeep Yadav replaced the injured duo of K.L. Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja. Mukesh Kumar came in place of Mohammed Siraj, who has been released from the squad for this Test but will be available for the third Test, while the recently-released Avesh Khan has rejoined.

Sounds a little confusing? Maybe not as much as some of the shots Indian batters played to get out, especially after the disappointment in the first Test.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS

Yashasvi Jaiswal (batting) 179 *(257b, 17x4, 5x6)*, Rohit Sharma c Pope b Bashir 14 *(41b)*, Shubman Gill c Foakes b Anderson 34 *(46b, 5x4)*, Shreyas Iyer c Foakes b Hartley 27 *(59b, 3x4)*, Rajat Patidar b Rehan 32 *(72b, 3x4)*, Axar Patel c Rehan b Bashir 27 *(51b, 4x4)*, K.S. Bharat c Bashir b Rehan 17 *(23b, 2x4, 1x6)*, R. Ashwin (batting) 5 *(10b, 1x4)*; Extras (nb-1): 1; Total (for six wkts. in 93 overs): 336.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-40 (Rohit, 17.3 overs), 2-89 (Gill, 28.5), 3-179 (Shreyas, 50.4), 4-249 (Patidar, 71.1), 5-301 (Axar, 85.3), 6-330 (Bharat, 90.6).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Anderson 17-3-30-1, Root 14-0-71-0, Hartley 18-2-74-1, Bashir 28-0-100-2, Rehan 16-2-61-2.

Toss: India.

Patidar feels the wait for his chance was worth it

Decent beginning: Patidar justified the faith reposed in him with a short but solid knock. K.R. DEEPAK

P.K. Ajith Kumar
VISAKHAPATNAM

A spectacular Test debut it wasn't, but Rajat Patidar showed why the selectors and the team management put faith in him. He batted well for his 32 and put on 70 important runs for the fourth wicket with Yashasvi Jaiswal, the star on the opening day of the second Test against England.

"It was a dream-come-true moment for me," the 30-year-old said at a press conference. "I didn't feel any pressure as I have played a lot of games in domestic cricket on this track. Yes, I slept well last night. It was normal for me."

He came into the Test after scoring a couple of hundreds against England Lions. "I gained confidence with those hundreds," he said. "The two series I played for India-A also helped me prepare."

> It was a very special moment receiving my Test cap and for me to get Rohit Sharma as my first wicket was very, very special
>
> SHOAIB BASHIR

For Patidar, it had been a long wait to get his Test cap, which he received from former left-arm quick Zaheer Khan. "Waiting for so long is common in Indian cricket," said the Madhya Pradesh batter. "There are a lot of contenders. I was just focusing on things that are in my hands. So at the age of 30, I came here and it feels good."

Lauds Jaiswal

He was all praise for Jaiswal's superb unbeaten hundred. "He is a very good player," Patidar said. "There is something special about the way he takes on the bowlers. I felt my innings was a good one, but I need to make a big one."

He enjoyed his partnership with Jaiswal. "We were talking about taking our stand as far as possible," he said. "We were playing each ball on merit."

Patidar, who made his ODI debut in South Africa recently, said it was a good wicket to bat on. "We will try to bat as long as we can," he said, looking ahead to the second day.

Dhas, Saharan put India in semifinal

Swing factor: Dhas and Saharan, who added 215 for the fourth wicket, took the game away from Nepal. X@BCCI

UNDER-19 WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
BLOEMFONTEIN

Sachin Dhas and skipper Uday Saharan hit fluent centuries and lifted India from a tricky 62 for three to a formidable 297 for five against Nepal in its final Group 1 Super Six match of the Under-19 World Cup here on Friday.

Dhas punished the Nepal bowling attack in his innings of 116 runs off 101 balls (11x4, 3x6). Saharan made his 100 off 107 deliveries (9x4), the duo weathering the early storm with a mammoth partnership of 215 in 202 balls.

In reply, Nepal was restricted to 165 for nine.

Left-arm spinner Saumy Pandey sparked the collapse with a spell of 10-1-29-4. The win helped India qualify for the semifinal.

The scores:
India 297/5 in 50 overs (Uday Saharan 100, Sachin Dhas 116) bt Nepal 165/9 in 50 overs (Saumy Pandey 4/29).

Strong Indian team is firm favourite against Pakistan

Historic clash: The Pakistan and India teams during the draw ceremony. AFP

DAVIS CUP

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

India will be without its top singles players but the visitors, who have come to Pakistan after 60 years, will still start as favourites in the historic Davis Cup World Group I play-off tie, which is being played within a restricted environment due to security concerns.

India has never lost to Pakistan in Davis Cup history, winning all seven ties so far, and the trend is likely to continue.

However, the host is expected to put up a good fight through its biggest stars, Aisam-ul-haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan, after choosing to play on grass courts.

If Pakistan stood a chance against India, it had to be on the grass courts because both Aisam and Aqeel are tremendous fighters, and this surface brings the best out of them.

The courts in Islamabad are fast with low bounce, and it made sense that N. Sriram Balaji, a doubles specialist, has been asked to play singles on the opening day along with the team's best singles player, Ramkumar Ramanathan.

India's non-playing captain Zeeshan Ali felt that it will be a close tie and refused to engage in discussion on why the Indian cricket team or other Indian athletes do not travel to Pakistan for competition.

"We are here to play tennis. Certain decisions are taken by the government and we have no role in that. We have come prepared, and we have a job to do," he said.

The draw: Feb. 3: Ramkumar Ramanathan vs. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi; Aqeel Khan vs. Sriram Balaji. **Feb. 4:** Barkatullah & Muzammil Murtaza vs. Yuki Bhambri & Saketh Myneni; Ramkumar Ramanathan vs. Aqeel Khan; Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi vs. Sriram Balaji.

The young crop of Indian shooters doing well: Anjali

Amul Presents
SPORTSTAR ACES 2024
INDIA TRIUMPHS
#SSaces2024
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In association with IndianOil

Anjali Bhagwat.

Sports Bureau

Anjali Bhagwat, a member of the *Sportstar* Aces Awards jury, was delighted with the achievements of the Indian shooters and archers in 2023.

The Olympian shooter was particularly pleased with the young shooters who have made a mark in the international arena.

"Our young crop is doing so well, and whoever has won the Olympic quota or is on the Indian team is all below 20, the nation's youth. They won the Olympic quotas not just with medals but with good scores. Our shooters are catching up with the world. I am optimistic that our performance in the Olympics will be good," she added.

Anjali hailed para archer Sheetal Devi's breakout performances in 2023, which saw her top the world rankings and win medals across several international events.

"I saw her shooting two shots back-to-back on point – we call it a 10.9, a dead centre – that requires tremendous focus and confidence.

"When you know you're shooting well, you need to have control over your mind, as your thoughts will drift to the podium or some unwanted thoughts might creep in and distract you. But she held her nerve and was so confident of winning that tournament, and that's the best part," she explained.

Anjali was pleased that selecting winners has become increasingly difficult each year. "We had difficulties arriving at a conclusion about some of the awards. This time, we've looked at factors like the overall impact on the nation and the overall popularity of the athlete.

"These things matter because we're trying to inculcate a certain sporting culture among the people of the country. We're bidding for the 2036 Olympics. We need this kind of culture and excitement among people in the country, and how athletes contribute to this also matters," she said.

INBRIEF

Bartlett has dream debut, Australia eases past Windies

Fast bowler Xavier Bartlett took four for 17 in his ODI debut as Australia thrashed West Indies by eight wickets in their series opener on Friday. "Amazing way to start my career," the 25-year-old player-of-the-match Bartlett said.

The scores: West Indies 231 in 48.4 overs (Carty 88, Chase 59, Bartlett 4/17) lost to Australia 232 for 2 in 38.3 overs (Inglis 65, Green 77 n.o., Smith 79 n.o.). **Toss:** Australia. **PoTM:** Bartlett. *Australia leads the three match series 1-0.*

Lankan openers dominate against Afghanistan

Sri Lanka openers Dimuth Karunaratne and Nishan Madushka put on 80 quick runs in the first day's final session to unnerve Afghanistan in their one-off Test on Friday. The rapid partnership between Karunaratne (42) and Madushka (36) in the last 14 overs of the day left Sri Lanka trailing by just 118 with all 10 wickets in hand. Earlier, Afghanistan was all out for 198 after tea with left-arm seamer Vishwa Fernando taking four wickets.

The scores: Afghanistan 198 (Rahmat 91, Asitha 3/24, Vishwa 4/51, Jayasuriya 3/67) vs. Sri Lanka 80 for no loss. **Toss:** Sri Lanka.

India-A bowlers take the fight to England Lions

India-A staged a remarkable comeback to dismiss England Lions for 199 before the batters propelled the home team to a position of strength on the second day of the third and final 'Test' in Ahmedabad on Friday. Akash Deep, *in pic*, (4/56) and Yash Dayal (3/32) shared seven wickets between them. At stumps, India-A was well-placed at 148 for three in its second innings, 141 runs ahead of the visitors.

The scores: India-A 192 and 148/3 in 48.2 overs (Sai Sudharsan 54 batting, Tilak Varma 46, James Coles 3/63) vs England Lions 199 in 64.3 overs (Alex Lees 64, Akash Deep 4/56, Yash Dayal 3/32).

Warriors get the better of Dabang in the PKL

Bengal Warriors started the New Delhi leg of this season's Pro Kabaddi League with a 45-38 win over the local team Dabang Delhi on Friday. In the second match, Haryana Steelers edged Gujarat Giants 34-30. Meanwhile, the playoffs and final will be held in Hyderabad from February 26 to March 1.

Ashmita enters the semifinals of Thailand Masters

Ashmita Chaliha dished out a brilliant performance to beat Ester Nurumi Wardoyo of Indonesia 21-14, 19-21, 21-13 and enter the women's singles semifinals at the Thailand Masters badminton tournament in Bangkok on Friday.

The results (quarterfinals): Men: Mark Caljouw (Ned) bt Mithun Manjunath 21-19, 21-15.
Women: Ashmita Chaliha bt Ester Nurumi Wardoyo (Ina) 21-14, 19-21, 21-13. **Doubles:** Febriana Dwipuji Kusuma & Amallia Cahaya Pratiwi (Ina) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand 21-12, 17-21, 23-21.

Bothireddy State Open rapid chess tournament on Feb. 24

The Bothireddy Karnataka State Open rapid chess tournament will be conducted by Rotary Bangalore Indiranagar and Rotary Bengaluru Disha on February 24 in Indiranagar. Entries close on February 22. For details, call N. Muniraju (9113026037).

Railways' spinners leave Karnataka reeling

After being bowled out for 155, Railways' left-arm tweakers Akash Pandey (three for 21) and Ayan Chaudhary (two for 18) pegged back the visitor, leaving it scrambling at 90 for six at stumps

RANJI TROPHY

Anish Pathiyil
SURAT

The spinners picked five wickets in the final session of the first day to help Railways make a comeback against Karnataka in the Ranji Trophy Elite Group C encounter here on Friday.

After being bowled out for 155 in 56 overs, Railways' left-arm spinners Akash Pandey (three for 21) and Ayan Chaudhary (two for 18) pegged back Karnataka, leaving it reeling at 90 for 6 at stumps.

Karnataka got off to a solid start in its batting essay. D. Nischal, who replaced Mayank Agarwal at the top of the order, struck four boundaries in his 16-ball 20, before being caught behind by a rearing Himanshu Sangwan delivery.

Akash removed opener R. Samarth for 22 and captain Nikin Jose for a duck next ball, both caught behind by wicket-keeper Suraj Ahuja in the 18th over.

Debutant Chaudhary and Akash then scalped the wickets of K.V. Aneesh, Manish Pandey and all-rounder Hardik Raj in the dying minutes of the day.

Earlier in the day, Karnataka began on the right note after opting to bowl. A green tinge on the pitch helped its pacers extract some extra bounce, removing three Railways top-order batters for nought within seven overs.

Skipper Pratham Singh (56, 131b, 5x4, 1x6) and Mohammad Saif (45, 115b, 5x4) struck a 98-run partnership for the fourth wicket off 217 balls to lead the team's fightback.

After an expensive first spell, V. Vyshak bounced back, getting Pratham caught behind and Saif leg before, helping Karnataka regain the initiative.

17-year-old left-arm spinner Hardik cleaned up the lower-middle order with three leg-before-wicket dismissals before V. Koushik polished off the tail to bowl Railways out at tea.

Karnataka will hope for a good start to the second day's play to avoid conceding a first-innings lead.

Fiery start: Karnataka's V. Koushik polished off the Railways tail at Tea. VIJAY SONEJI

The scores: Railways — 1st innings: Rishabh Mishra c Aneesh b Kaverappa 0, Vivek Singh c Jose b Koushik 0, Pratham Singh c Sharath b Vyshak 56, Yuvraj Singh c Sharath b Kaverappa 0, Mohammad Saif lbw b Vyshak 45, Sahab Yuvraj Singh lbw b Hardik 8, Suraj Ahuja lbw b Hardik 10, Ashutosh Sharma lbw b Hardik 7, Akash Pandey (not out) 11, Himanshu Sangwan lbw b Koushik 0, Ayan Chaudhary c Nischal b Koushik 4; Extras (b-14): 14; Total (in 56 overs): 155.
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-4, 3-7, 4-105, 5-114, 6-120, 7-131, 8-140, 9-151.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 14-5-25-2, Koushik 11-5-22-3, Vyshak 13-3-57-2, Samarth 5-1-9-0, Hardik 13-4-28-3.
Karnataka — 1st innings: R. Samarth c Ahuja b Akash Pandey 22, D. Nischal c Ahuja b Sangwan 20, K.V. Aneesh c Pratham b Ayan 27, Nikin Jose c Ahuja b Akash Pandey 0, Manish Pandey lbw b Ayan 18, Hardik Raj lbw b Akash Pandey 1, Kishan Bedare (batting) 2; Total (for six wkts. in 27.5 overs): 90.
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-57, 3-57, 4-83, 5-88, 6-90.
Railways bowling: Yuvraj Singh 7-1-27-0, Sangwan 6-1-24-1, Akash Pandey 7.5-1-21-3, Ayan 7-1-18-2.
Toss: Karnataka.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES, ROUND 5, DAY 1

Aryan Juyal (UP, 162 n.o.). FILE PHOTO

Elite: Group A: At Jamshedpur: Manipur 170 in 62.4 overs (Johnson 62, Shahbaz Nadeem 5/52) vs. Jharkhand 96/1 in 27 overs (Utkarsh Singh 50 batting).
At Rohtak: Services 72/7 in 36 overs (Aman Kumar 4/12) vs. Haryana.
At Solapur: Saurashtra 202 in 60.1 overs (Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 72, Prerak Mankad 56, H.A. Walunj 6/93, T.R. Dhillon 4/54) vs. Maharashtra 116/7 in 21.4 overs (Dharmendrasinh 4/47).
At Jaipur: Rajasthan 277/5 in 88 overs (M.J. Suthar 46, S.F. Khan 52, Deepak Hooda 77) vs. Vidarbha.
Group B: At Kolkata: Mumbai 330/6 in 75 overs (Suryansh Shedge 71, Shivam Dube 72, Tanush Kotian 55 batting, Atharva Ankolekar 41 batting) vs. Bengal.
At Patna: Bihar 182 in 86.5 overs (Pratap 92, Girinath Reddy 5/23) vs. Andhra.
At Raipur: Kerala 219/4 in 74 overs (Rohan Prem 54, Sachin Baby 91, Sanju Samson 57 batting) vs Chhattisgarh.
At Kanpur: UP 319/2 in 80 overs (Aryan Juyal 162 batting, Karan Sharma 108 batting, Prince Yadav 46) vs. Assam.
Group C: At Ahmedabad: Tripura 146 in 47.4 overs (Wriddhiman Saha 59 n.o., A. Nagawaswalla 4/47, S.A. Desai 4/43) vs. Gujarat 127/4 in 39.2 overs (Sunpreet Bagga 42).
At Surat: Railways 155 in 56 overs (Pratham Singh 56, Mohammed Saif 45) vs. Karnataka 90/6 in 27.5 overs.
At Chandigarh: Punjab 307/2 in 75 overs (Naman Dhir 86, Anmolpreet Singh 132 batting, Prabhsimran Singh 76 batting) vs. Chandigarh.
At Porvorim: Goa 241 in 75.5 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 104, K.V. Siddharth 69, Sai Kishore 4/73) vs. Tamil Nadu 20/0 in 7 overs.
Group D: At Cuttack: Odisha 230/4 in 87 overs (Shantanu Mishra 40, Sandeep Pattanaik 44, Govinda Poddar 80 n.o., Biplab Samantaray 41 n.o.) vs. Pondicherry.
At Delhi: Baroda 202/1 in 64 overs (J.K. Singh 124 batting, Shashwat Rawat 71 batting) vs. Delhi.
At Dharamshala: Himachal 169 in 54.3 overs (R.R. Dhawan 50) vs. MP 68/4 in 27 overs.
At Jammu: J&K 168/2 in 39 overs (Shubham Khajuria 58, Vivrant Sharma 78 batting) vs. Uttarakhand.
Plate: At Rangpo: Sikkim 238/7 in 78 overs (Palzor 79, Ankur 58 batting, Akash Kumar 4/46) vs. Meghalaya.
At Dimapur: Arunachal 124 in 39.1 overs (Khrievitso 4/4) vs. Nagaland 26/2 in 8 overs.
At Hyderabad: Mizoram 199 in 56 overs (Agni Chopra 43, K.C. Cariappa 45, Rohit Rayudu 4/20) vs. Hyderabad 120/1 in 26 overs (Rahul Singh 81 batting).

La Reina claims Stayers' Trial Stakes

BENGALURU: Imtiaz Khan-trained La Reina (Antony Raj up) won the Stayers' Trial Stakes, the chief event of the races held here on Friday (Feb. 2). The winner is the property of Queen's Gambit Racing Syndicate represented by M/s. Medappa P. Belliappa. Both Antony Raj and Imtiaz Khan won three races on the day.

THE RESULTS:

1. VANI VILASA SAGARA PLATE: GREELEY (S. John) 1, Eco Friendly (Afsar Khan) 2, Marco Polo (C. Umesh) 3 and Double Vision (Indrajeet S) 4. 2-1/2, Hd and 2. 1m, 27.04s. ₹20 (w), 11, 25 and 22 (p), SHP: 54, THP: 53, FP: 212. Q: 173, Trinella: 996, Exacta: 4,422. Favourite: Greeley.
Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

2. KADAMBI FALLS PLATE (DIV. II): RAFFLES (P. Siddaraju) 1, Way Of Life (A. Ramu) 2, Solid Power (S. Saqlain) 3 and Emeraldo (S. Shareef) 4. Not run: Mega Success. 2-1/4, 2 and 1-1/2. 1m, 26.62s. ₹29 (w), 13, 23 and 12 (p), SHP: 78, THP: 38, FP: 392, Q: 234, Trinella: 1,317, Exacta: 3,670. Favourite: Singhsaab.
Owners: Dr. M.A.M Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust & Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd. Trainer: S. Dominic.

3. FEBRUARY STAKES: ADJUSTMENT (Antony) 1, Fast Response (Koshi K) 2, Vayu (G. Vivek) 3 and Striking Memory (Shreyas) 4. 5, 1-3/4 and 1-3/4. 1m, 05.79s. ₹29 (w), 16, 18 and 37 (p), SHP: 64, THP: 73, FP: 153, Q: 61, Trinella: 1,052, Exacta: 74,252. Favourite: Immortal Beauty.
Owner: Arion Horse Co Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Imtiaz Khan.

4. DR. T. THIMMAIAH MEMORIAL CUP: STELLAR GOLD (Darshan) 1, Golden Time (G. Vivek) 2, Bruce Almighty (I. Chisty) 3 and Armory (Angad) 4. 1/2, 10-1/4 and 7-1/4. 2m, 04.52. ₹24 (w), 12 and 24 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 28, FP: 131, Q: 84, Trinella: 313. Favourite: Armory.
Owner: Dr. M.A.M Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: S. Ganapathy.

5. STAYERS' TRIAL STAKES: LA REINA (Antony) 1, Auspicious Queen (Angad) 2, Kushaq (Suraj) 3 and Karanveer (F. Norton) 4. 5, 2-1/2 and 1-1/4. 2m 30.69s. ₹14 (w), 13 and 14 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 26, FP: 72, Q: 45, Trinella: 121. Favourite: La Reina.
Owner: Queen's Gambit Racing Syndicate's rep. by M/s. Medappa P. Belliappa. Trainer: Imtiaz Khan.

6. C.V. PRASAD RAO MILLION: EXCELLENT LASS (Neeraj) 1, Positano (F. Norton) 2, True Punch (I. Chisty) 3 and Silicon Star (A. Ramu) 4. Not run: Redefined and Windcleaver. Lnk, 3-3/4 and Snk. 1m, 12.20s. ₹40 (w), 15, 13 and 23 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 62, FP: 132, Q: 45, Trinella: 859, Exacta: 4,532. Favourite: Positano.
Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. Teja Gollapudi & M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

7. KADAMBI FALLS PLATE (DIV. I): KLIMT (Antony) 1, Je Ne Sais Quoi (C. Umesh) 2, Chiraag (Md. Aliyar) 3 and Embosom (G. Vivek) 4. 2, 4-1/4 and Snk. 1m, 25.82s. ₹25 (w), 13, 22 and 49 (p), SHP: 53, THP: 127, FP: 169, Q: 99, Trinella: 4,098, Exacta: 12,256. Favourite: Klimt.
Owner: Bachhawat Farms Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Vikram Bachhawat. Trainer: Imtiaz Khan.

Jackpot: ₹2,381 (112 tkts.); Runner-up: 363 (315 tkts.); Treble (i): 495 (19 tkts.); (ii): 318 (63 tkts.).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Former India hockey player Uthaiah passes away

Former India and Karnataka hockey player, A.S. Uthaiah, passed away here on Wednesday after a brief illness. He was 83.

A stylish left half-back, Uthaiah represented India in the 1970 Bangkok Asian Games where the country earned a silver. He played for Karnataka and Services in the National Hockey Championships in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

In Bengaluru, he was attached to MEG & Centre for close to a decade and a half, and then with BEML Bangalore. He even helped the latter win the KSHA Super Division Championship multiple times.

The Karnataka State Hockey Association condoled his death.

Narrow win for South India FC

South India FC edged out Veterans FC 4-3 in the BDFA B-division league championship here on Friday.

The results:

A-div: Income Tax FC 1 (Mawblei 12) drew with Bangalore City FC 1 (Haominthang Kipgen 80+5);
B-div: South India FC 4 (K. Lalrinfela 47, 60, 65, Jaya Surya 70) bt Veterans FC 3 (R.C. Prakash 2, Anthony 7, B. Karthick 31); Royals FC 0 drew with Vehicles FC 0.

Punjab hosts Bengaluru

ISL-10

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Punjab FC will hope to resume the season with a win as it hosts Bengaluru FC in a Round 13 match here on Saturday. The two had played out a 3-3 draw in the first meeting.

Punjab FC had lost to Odisha FC to a solitary goal before the international break while Bengaluru FC played out a 1-1 draw against NorthEast United at Bengaluru.

Speaking on the eve of the game, PFC coach Staikos Vergetis said "in the previous match against Bengaluru, we had specific moments in the match which led to individual mistakes that cost us the match. We have worked out our plan for the match tomorrow against a big opponent and hope to get a positive result out of the match."

Bengaluru FC will have the services of the national side players including Captain Sunil Chhetri.

Mainoo saves United's blushes

The clincher: Mainoo caps off a fine solo run with a cool finish to ensure United's victory. GETTY IMAGES

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Kobbie Mainoo scored a 97th minute winner as Manchester United snatched a dramatic 4-3 win at Wolves on Thursday after blowing a two-goal lead.

Joselu struck twice as Real Madrid strolled into first place in LaLiga with a comfortable 2-0 win at Getafe on Thursday.

Carlo Ancelotti's side is two points clear of shock title challenger Girona after a catch-up fixture which means both sides have played 22 matches.

Striker Joselu headed Madrid in front in the first half and finished lethally early in the second to put his team in command against its mid-table opposition.

The results:

Premier League: West Ham 1 (Ward-Prowse 61-pen) drew with Bournemouth 1 (Solanke 3); Wolves 3 (Sarabia 71-pen, Kilman 85, Neto 90+5) lost to Manchester United 4 (Rashford 5, Hojlund 22, McTominay 75, Mainoo 90+7).

LaLiga: Getafe 0 lost to Real Madrid 2 (Joselu 14, 56).

Top grapplers to test themselves ahead of Olympic qualifiers

NATIONAL WRESTLING

Y.B. Sarangi
JAIPUR

In the backdrop of an ongoing tussle between the Union Sports Ministry and the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) over recognition of the latter, several top wrestlers of the country will test themselves ahead of the Olympic qualifiers when they compete in the three-day National wrestling championships, starting at the Railway Stadium here on Saturday.

With two National championships being held back-to-back in Pune and Jaipur, the government has made it clear that it would not recognise the results from the Pune event as it was organised by the 'suspended' WFI, headed by former president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's acolyte Sanjay Singh.

As the Ministry has backed the Nationals organised by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed ad-hoc body here, it was no surprise that names of several elite wrestlers – who would need the Sports Authority of India's funding for their Olympic preparation – featured in the list of participants.

Among them, two-time World championships bronze medallist Vinesh Phogat (55kg) is making a comeback after her knee surgery. As per the WFI records, Vinesh had competed in 2019 National championships in Jalandhar.

Two other Worlds medallists Anshu Malik (59kg) and Sarita Mor (59kg), Asian championships silver medallist Nisha Dahiya (68kg) and Asian Games bronze medallist Sunil Kumar (Greco Roman, 87kg) will add quality to the field.

Innovative: The Railway Stadium has been converted into a makeshift indoor facility. Y.B. SARANGI

While public sector units, Services and Railways, and one faction of the Haryana unit fielded the majority of leading wrestlers in the championships, confusion prevailed in some cases as wrestlers belonging to two factions of some state units reached here to compete.

With the Railways Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) hosting the event, excellent arrangements have been put in place by converting an open ground to a make-shift indoor facility.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs England: 2nd Test, day 2, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.
Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan: Only Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.
Men's U-19 CWC: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6, 8.30 & 11 p.m.
LaLiga: Jio Cinema App, 6.30. 8.45, 11 p.m.;Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)
Serie A: Jio Cinema App, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
New Zealand vs South Africa: 1st Test, day 1, Prime Video, 3.30 a.m. (Sunday)

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Indian women hope to put Olympic heartbreak behind and make a strong start

The two-leg mini tournament will see India take on China in its opening game, followed by Netherlands, Australia and USA

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Sports Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

It's been two weeks since the Indian women's hockey team's Olympic dreams ended in Ranchi but the side is already planning for the next challenge at the FIH Pro League beginning here on Saturday. And despite brave words from coach Janneke Schopman about looking forward, it won't be easy.

The two-leg mini tournament, across Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, will see India take on China in its opening game, followed by Netherlands, Australia, and USA. Barring the host, all the teams have qualified for Paris, but that won't make it any less challenging. Of its four opponents, India has a better record against only China, including their last meeting at the Asian Champions Trophy but China won the one that really mattered - at the Asian Games. The Dutch and the Aussies have a massively one-sided track record but they haven't played India in an official competition since 2022 India has won only two games against each of them ever, in 11 and 14 matches respectively, as per FIH records - which only acts as a reminder of why the Tokyo Olympics victory against Australia was such a big deal.

Next step: Schopman and Savita will be keen on helping India move on after missing out on the Paris berth. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Schopman insisted she was happy with the team's performance in Ranchi - unlike Hangzhou - but admitted the need for a relook. "We are still hurting, it's been a tough two weeks. We want to show we are a good team. We know we won't get the Olympics back and can only move forward."

The team will have experienced Vandana Katariya back, as the vice-captain, and the veteran admitted it was difficult to see the team miss out from outside. "When I got injured at such a crucial moment, we were not sure how bad it was. But seeing from outside, the team played well. Everyone is sad but we hope to play good hockey here," she added.

Krishna's brace helps Odisha turn it around against Blasters

Match-winner: Krishna's second-half goals proved decisive. BISWARANJAN ROUT

ISL-10

Sports Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha FC bounced back with a second-half brace courtesy of Roy Krishna to defeat Kerala Blasters 2-1 and secure three points at the Kalinga Stadium here in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 on Friday.

Dimitrios Diamantakos bagged his 10th strike of the season by tapping in a cross by Nihal Sudeesh.

In the 53rd minute, Moroccan midfielder Ahmed Jahouh delivered a curling, accurate cross to the Fijian who was stationed merely a few yards away from Sachin.

He outmanoeuvred the Kerala Blasters defence to put the ball past the goalkeeper.

Odisha had found the breakthrough and began pushing forward, as the opposition's defence had become slightly disoriented by then.

Fullback Amey Ranawade sensed a similar opportunity, sprinting up ahead on the right flank, before sliding in a well-directed pass for Krishna.

The striker jumped and nodded the ball in, effectively eliminating the early advantage that Kerala Blasters had garnered.

The result:

Odisha FC 2 (Roy Krishna 53, 57) bt Kerala Blasters FC 1 (Dimitrios Diamantakos 11).

Hamilton broke the news of Ferrari move over breakfast meet: Wolff

FORMULA ONE

Associated Press
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Lewis Hamilton surprised Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff when he broke the news over breakfast that he was leaving the F1 team for Ferrari but there is "no grudge" between them, Wolff said on Friday.

Wolff said he had heard rumours that Hamilton might leave, but didn't know for sure until the F1 great confirmed it in a meeting over breakfast on Wednesday at Wolff's home in Oxford, England.

Hamilton is leaving Mercedes at the end of the upcoming season to join Ferrari for 2025 in a move announced on Thursday. Hamilton has raced for Mercedes since 2013 and won six of his seven titles with the team.

"The surprise was that I had heard the rumours a couple of days earlier, but wanted to wait for the breakfast we had planned, and it was Wednesday morning... this is when he broke the news," Wolff said on Friday.

"But, you know, you can be very straightforward with me because I'm very straightforward too. So once he said, This is what I'm trying to do,' that was the fact. I didn't try to convince him otherwise."

Wolff added that he will always consider Hamilton "a friend."

"In the future, we will discuss whether this could have been done in a different way or not, but I hold no grudge."

In a glimpse into the shock within the wider Mercedes team, Wolff said Hamilton's long-time race engineer Peter Bonnington – known as Bono in their conversations over the radio during races – replied "Is it April 1?" when told Hamilton would leave.

Mercedes can now take its time deciding on a new driver to partner George Russell for next year, Wolff added. He likened Mercedes' need for a new driver to dealing with the sudden departure in 2016 of Hamilton's then-teammate Nico Rosberg, who retired from F1 days after winning the title.

"I always like change because change provides you opportunity, and in the same way we've embraced the Nico situation," he said.

"And that was equally like from one moment to the other, unexpected." Hamilton has not won a race since 2021, when he narrowly – and controversially – missed out on the title to Verstappen at the season finale in Abu Dhabi.

Mercedes struggled to adapt to new "ground effect" aerodynamics reintroduced for 2022 and Russell's victory in Sao Paulo that year is the team's only win since then. In 2026 – which would be Hamilton's second season of a "multi-year" deal with Ferrari – a new set of rules is expected to shake up the grid.

Wolff said he has no concerns about involving Hamilton with Mercedes' car development, even with the Brit due to join a rival.

"I don't have any doubt in Lewis' integrity in terms of sharing information," Wolff said.

Hamilton has been linked with Mercedes for most of his life, ever since he signed with McLaren as a 13-year-old champion in karting.

Friends forever: Wolff says he holds no grudge over Hamilton's decision to leave Mercedes. FILE PHOTO: AP